

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

MYLC Wrap - Where Our Year-Long Faith Journey Has Brought Us

Definition: In September, we began a sixteen-lesson journey along the theme of Making Your Life Count. The idea is centered around four themes. **WALK** with God. **PRAY** for God's supernatural involvement. **CARE** for others. **SHARE** what God has shown you. How have you done? Do you have a stronger reassurance that our lives count, not because of the fame and fortune we acquire, not through our accomplishments with family, friends, and co-workers? But our lives count when we live out our life journey by following the guidelines of God's Word as summarized in these four themes. May we constantly keep these ideas in mind as we boldly continue the journey.

Segment Questions:

- What are some other examples from scripture that come to mind that illustrate well the ideas of Walk, Pray, Care and Share?
- Which of the 4 areas, Walk, Pray, Care, and Share, do you find easiest to live out daily? Why? Which is the most difficult for you? Why?
- What idea(s) has been the biggest blessing to you and your faith journey from this Making Your Life Count series?
- What area of your faith journey have you cultivated this year? If you can, please share an example or story.

Action Questions:

- Go back to the Romans 12 passage and underline or circle all of the verbs. What do you notice? The whole sense of this passage is intentional and bold actions. If you were reporting on your own life and actions, would the verbs be the same?
- Intentionality is a struggle for me. How do you cultivate intentionality without becoming legalistic? What are some examples in your own walk?
- What does boldness mean to you? Have you ever prayed for boldness? How do we overcome personal insecurities to act in the boldness of Paul's words in Romans 12 ?

Personal Application: On the MYLC web site, there is a subtitle listed. It reads, "Dream of What Can Be..." It's the idea that by being willing and available we can help point people to God. It is possible to see God do more than you can imagine. You do not have to be super spiritual... you just need to listen to God and boldly do what He tells you to do.

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We have now had 16 lessons this year focusing on Making Your Life Count. We have explored 4 areas of our faith journeys: Walk, Pray, Care, and Share. Let me remind us where we have been.

- **WALK** : Increased your grasp of how God wants you to live. Demonstrate credibility. Walk with Him so others see your actions match your words.
- **PRAY**: Talk with God about things that matter to you and others. Nothing is too small or big for Him. Connect closely with God and receive His guidance and power.
- **CARE**: Look for ways to be conscious of the continual needs of others. Demonstrate love and kindness freely and frequently.
- **SHARE**: You are making your life count, now help others to experience the same. Team up with others to spread the message of Christ's love to the world.

Walk, Pray, Care, and Share are not revolutionary ideas. None of us were caught off guard with any of these ideas. In fact, as we read the Scriptures, we read about Abraham **WALKING** with God to a new land and journeying with God over his lifetime to be blessed by God. Joseph walked with God. “You meant this for evil, but God meant this for good” (**Genesis 50:20**). Jesus walked with God. In Scriptures, we see the **PRAYERS** of Moses, King David, Zechariah, Mary and Paul. “I thank my God every time I remember you” (**Philippians 1:3**). Not to mention the example of Jesus running off to seclusion frequently to pray. We see stories like Moses’ mother, a Hebrew woman enslaved in Egypt, **CARING** for a baby Moses and hiding him in the rushes so that God may deliver His people through this baby. We read stories like four friends who have to **SHARE** Jesus with their paralyzed friend. Or the stories of Andrew, who time and time again, **SHARES** Jesus with his brother, or a boy with fishes and loaves, or even Gentiles!

Walk, Pray, Care, and Share are not new, but they are hard to live out day-to-day. We should find comfort that they are part of God’s story over and over again. They are a part of the story of God’s faithful followers. In fact, we are a part of that story too -- that beautiful heritage of faith. I was recently reminded when reading in Revelation, Jesus wins in the end. Is anyone shocked with that statement? No! We know this, but sometimes our memory fails, or our focus is fleeting. I think Peter and John knew this truth. When they were threatened after continuing to preach the resurrection of Jesus, they immediately returned to their friends and prayed. “Lord, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness...” (**Acts 4:29**). Their first prayer was not for protection or guidance, but boldness.

With this hope we find in Christ, let us boldly pursue Paul’s words in Romans 12:9-18 as we continue on our faith journeys:

Romans 12:9-18 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”