

Get In The Game

Text: **Matthew 6: 19-24**

Life can cause us to become dull and indifferent from time-to-time, but the Bible says we “must warn each other every day, while it is still ‘today,’ so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God” (Hebrews 3:13). Christ calls us to “Get In the Game”—to determine today to *finally* live out what we say we believe. Don’t put it off. Is it hard work? Yes. But is it worth it? Most definitely! In time like planting seeds in tender, fertile soil, your invitation to bring someone to church and your faithfulness to tithe your income to God will reap a harvest of souls for Christ.

6. How has the “Get In the Game” message series challenged you personally to begin putting your faith into action?

Challenge: Don’t be scarce on Joshua Weekend! In the space below write down one way you know God is calling you to serve and invest in 2015.

“Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”
(Galatians 6:7-9)

The Plain Truth

The biggest _____ in a follower of Jesus is between what we _____ and what we _____.

1. The gap is filled by choosing the right _____.
2. The gap is filled with _____.
3. The gap is filled with a _____ relationship.

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 28: Isaiah 54:1-57:14, Ephesians 6:1-24, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 24:8
Sept. 29: Isaiah 57:15-59:21, Philippians 1:1-26, Psalm 71:1-24, Proverbs 24:9-10
Sept. 30: Isaiah 60:1-62:5, Philippians 1:27-2:18, Psalm 72:1-20, Proverbs 24:11-12
Oct. 1: Isaiah 62:6-65:25, Philippians 2:19-3:3, Psalm 73:1-28, Proverbs 24:13-14
Oct. 2: Isaiah 66:1-24, Philippians 3:4-21, Psalm 74:1-23, Proverbs 24:15-16
Oct. 3: Jeremiah 1:1-2:30, Philippians 4:1-23, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 24:17-20
Oct. 4: Jeremiah 2:31-4:18, Colossians 1:1-17, Psalm 76:1-12, Proverbs 24:21-22

September 27 & 28, 2014

Get In The Game

Life Group Lesson • Week of September 28

At Christ Church we have a six-fold membership covenant. Two of those vows are to invite and to tithe. Why invite? Why tithe? After all, these are hard things to do! Jesus calls you and I to turn from our selfish ways in order to find life. Like taking up your cross daily (see Mark 8:34), walking across the lawn to invite your neighbor to church is hard but will help them know they are loved. Honoring the Lord with the first ten percent of your income is hard, but will bless many as it multiplies in the hands of the One who fed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish (see John 6:9). Being invitational and faithful with our finances draws Christ's Kingdom into closer proximity in our day-to-day living. Like someone has done for you, simply meet people where they are, love them, then point them to Christ.

1. Think of the people who have invested in your walk with Christ. Whose personal invitation first brought you to the Lord?

Whose love and support are helping to keep you on path now?

How are you investing in the next generation for Christ?
(spiritually and financially)

Read Matthew 6:19-24

Overtime earthly treasures rust, decay, rot, and ruin. Only people are eternal. This is another reason Jesus calls us to invite and to invest—so that people know His love. Christ calls us to a greater purpose than chasing riches. If you want to know what you *really* treasure, ask yourself: “Where’s my heart?” Jesus said, “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be” (v21). If I want the desires of my heart to be in line with heaven’s priorities, then I must throw out the god of Mammon and start fully trusting the Lord Jesus Christ. God alone is worthy of my worship and has said: “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols” (Isaiah 42:8).

2. How do “carved idols” tend to translate into your day-to-day living?
3. **Read Isaiah 44:6-20.** What does this passage say about the foolishness of idolatry? Write down at least one take-away from this reference—perhaps something you’ve never thought about—and discuss briefly.

Every good thing we have is from above (see James 1:17). Yet we are often tricked into believing the philosophy of this age, that somehow our own hard work and abilities have enabled us to be successful. The ability to work hard, use our talents, keep a sane thought, and make decisions are all gifts from God. We must guard against any mindset that threatens to distract or confuse us. From time immemorial the Lord’s position is absolute—“I am the First and the Last; there is no other God” (Isaiah 44:6b). It just makes good sense to align our lives with *His* unique position.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus always aligned His life with the Father’s unchanging plan. As a result Jesus traveled to many towns and villages, teaching, preaching, healing—interacting with people. “When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless like sheep without a shepherd” (v36). Obedience is not glamorous. Traveling is hard work. Teaching and preaching takes hours of preparation. Using our gifts of healing can be very draining. But like Jesus, when we are about the Father’s will, the Holy Spirit anoints us to see, pray, and act!

4. Jesus turns to His disciples and says: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few”(v37). According to v38, what does the Lord tell His disciples to do?

How does Jesus then live into His own prayer according to Matthew 10:1-8?

5. Think of a time you saw people “confused and helpless” and the Lord stirred within you a deep compassion. How did you respond to the need you saw?

On a scale of 1 – 10 (1 being not at all, 10 being over-the-top) how are you responding *today* to the need you see around you? Explain your rating.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10