

I. Intro

II. Intro Video

III. Welcome

IV. ME

- A. Fishing. Painting. Building. Karate.
- B. Best way to learn? Read about it? Listen to someone talk about it?
 1. BORING. Waste of time?
 2. Go and Do it with someone who knows what they are doing.
 3. Hands on experience... on the Job training.

V. WE

- A. Ever been bored at church? Bored with Xianity/Religion?
- B. One reason... many people think that "Faith" or "Following Jesus" only means sitting and learning about God and trying really hard not to do bad things until we get to go to heaven.
 1. In fact, some try to keep you so busy sitting and learning that you don't have time to do bad things or even meet 'bad' people.
 2. See church/religion as a way to stay safe and good until we get to go to heaven.
- C. Dangerous problem.
 1. In good times the worst thing that happens with this mindset is boredom and being too busy.
 2. But in bad times, when life really gets real, this type of "faith" falls apart and we are frozen with fear, anxiety, anger, paralyzed with a longing for life to just go back to how it was.
 3. Our "faith" stops growing or even begins to die.
 4. Haven't built a faith that we can actually use...
 5. Haven't ever experienced God coming through for us personally, except that one time the light turned green when you asked, (just read and heard about it from other people) so when things look dire we aren't sure if he is actually going to show up... never put our faith to real work.

6. A faith that isn't used isn't grown.

- D. So what if we took steps **now** to build our faith...
 1. Did the things that let us see God come through to build a faith that stands up to real life?
 2. Series... Let's Be Real. Really developing a Real Faith for a Real World... Like really.
 - a. Private Disciplines, Daily Application... actionable, lived out faith
 3. Really developing our faith can be uncomfortable, different... get used to different.
 4. It's going to be dangerous at times... b/c real faith isn't grown by just safely sitting and listening...

5. Real faith is developed in the real world.

VI. GOD

- A. Why Jesus didn't just start a school or a new synagogue... he chose 12 men (72) to walk around ancient Israel with him and experience real on the job faith training... in fact he set them up for it too...
- B. One of the clearest examples is also one of his most famous miracles... (Xian Fish)... Feeding the 5000.
1. Ok if you don't believe in miracles.
- C. Story unfolds... J the B executed.
1. Jesus goes to be alone with guys and process... but crowds find them and follow them... so he heals their sick but then...
- D. **V. 15** That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."
1. Disciples often get a bad rap... but they are being pretty thoughtful here.
2. These people need to eat... they need to go support the local economy and buy some food.
3. Disciples see a need. They care.
4. Like many of you... see **the hurt in the world** all around us... someone needs to do something...
5. Government, church, schools, SOMEONE.
- E. **V. 16** But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."
1. Jesus- "Someone needs to do something? I see 12 someone's right here."
2. Parents- Baby diaper... **"Finders Keepers"**
3. "You see this need. God has opened your eyes to a need around you... why don't you be the someone to do something?"
4. Same thing he says to us... "You all see needs around you... you have passions about certain causes..." maybe we're the Someone.
5. Following Jesus means you are the someone who needs to do something.
6. I picture Jesus with a little grin and a twinkle in his eye... he knows what's going to happen... knows what they are going to say.
- F. **V. 17** "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.
1. BUT... what are you talking about?
2. 5000 men PLUS women and children. A lot of food. Ever try to do a party for 50?
3. I wish I could do something... but I don't have resources, education, time, training,
4. What difference can I really make?
5. We often have very good reasons to not help.
6. Jesus isn't... "Oh really? Never mind yeah that's impossible."
7. Jesus... "Hold my beer. Time for some On The Job Training!"
- G. **V. 18** "Bring them here," he said.
1. "Give me what you have."
2. It may not be enough in your hands so watch how this is going to work...
3. When you trust me with what you have you can trust me to come through."
4. God asks us to do what we can't do so that he can show us what he can do.

H. **V. 19-21** Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

1. Notice... Jesus didn't tell the disciple to get out of the way, sit down and watch...
 - a. Could have just made bread appear in everyone's lap
 - b. Could have just healed their hunger
2. **God usually chooses to show love to people through other people.**
 - a. Disciples were used as a vital part of meeting these people's needs.
 - b. Jesus asked them to help these people. They realized they couldn't. "Just give me what you have and go do what I've asked you to do. And watch what happens."
 - c. 12 baskets left over... FUNNY- "Get the point?"
 - d. **When we give Jesus what we have he makes it more than enough.**
3. Think this event grew the faith of the disciples?
4. Seeing God use what we have and do what we couldn't do on our own grows our faith.

VII. YOU

- A. A faith that isn't used (like muscle) isn't grown.
- B. Using our faith means doing things that force us to rely on God.
- C. **Nothing grows our faith like having to rely on God.**
 1. A faith that is all sitting and learning at best is boring... James calls it pointless and useless
 2. Jesus didn't come and die so that we could sit safely in our four walls and wait for him to take us to heaven.
- D. Giving Jesus what we have to minister to others forces us to be consciously dependent on God.
 1. God- "I want you to minister to them"
 2. Us- "But I'm not ready, prepared, rich enough, smart enough"
 3. God- "You're right. Just bring me what you have (along with your fear and insecurity) and watch what happens."
 4. Us- "Ok.. but if you don't show up this is going to be a disaster..."
 5. God- "Right again! Let's go."
 6. Then we step, and he shows up, **and we learn to trust him, more and more...** doesn't always get easier but we start becoming comfortable being uncomfortable.
 7. We will never feel prepared or equipped enough...
 8. Examples- Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Disciples, Paul
 9. My story... HS Small Group. Words I never thought of. Bring what we have, and show up.
 10. Is it a safe life... nope, but who said anything about safe?

E. We were created for more than a safe life. We were created to save lives.

F. **Ephesians 2:10** - For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

G. Why Crosscreek Contributing- helping on a service team -- Practice for real life.

1. Stretches, scares... but gets us used to experiencing God work through us.
2. Greeting, teaching kids, etc.

H. When we experience God work through us, when God changes lives through us... it changes our lives... and it grows our faith.

1. If we want to see God show up we have to show up with what we have.

I. What do we do?

1. If you are serious... Invite you to do something that seems harmless... Pray.
2. One of the most dangerous prayers you can pray...

3. Step One- Pray: Father, what do you want me to do with what I have?

- a. Don't even have to be a JF.
- b. Dangerous, he might show you... and you might think you're not ready, or don't have what it takes.
- c. **Step Two- Listen**, have your eyes open, read scriptures- **Matthew 5-7, James, 1 John**, maybe even journal...
- d. THEN **Step Three- Show up**... give him what you have, and watch him use it.

4. Are you supposed to take care of every need around you?

- a. No, there are others who he wants to use too.

5. See a need? "What do you want me to do?"

- a. Answer will usually be one or more of these three- Pray, Give, Get involved.

VIII. WE

- A. Have you felt bored with Xianity?
- B. Or worse... overwhelmed, powerless, paralyzed with fear, anxiety, can't move forward b/c you keep wishing for what is behind us?
- C. We weren't promised safety... we were promised purpose and peace even in the face of death.
- D. Let's live with real faith.
- E. When we show up with what we have, God shows up with what he has, which always proves to be more than enough.
- F. **Real faith is developed when we see the real God really use us in the real world.**
- G. Ready? No? Perfect! Let's Go.

IX. OUTRO

- How to support fire victims.

Questions

1. Have you ever experienced God coming through for you or someone else, or heard a story about God coming through that inspired you? What happened?
2. Take some time and read what Jesus said in John 15:1-17. What stands out to you as it relates to this week's message?
3. What difficulties do you foresee with "pray, listen, and show up" for you? How can your group support you in this?