CLA Camp Hill, PA
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Based on the "NEXT" booklet by Daniel McNaughton and Shane Wilson



# First Principles

The word "discipleship" does not appear in the Bible because "sanctification" does.



# "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone"

**Martin Luther** 

# Attribute #7 – Learning to Manage

#### MIND

One of the great plagues on the people of our day is worry.

 Matt 6:25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.

 All of the "worry" prohibitions listed above are essential to survival, yet Jesus says "do not worry".



Phil 4:4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. 6 <u>Don't worry about anything</u>; instead, pray about everything.
 Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

 We would be wise to pray more than we worry because worry accomplishes nothing and the faithful prayers of a righteous person accomplishes much.

 Matt 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

• Don't worry because "Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?". (think in eternal terms)

 Don't worry because "Are you not much more valuable than they?" (you are more valuable than birds)

 Don't worry because "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" (accomplishes nothing)



 Don't worry because "if God clothes the grass that lasts but days, why wouldn't he clothe the eternal you?"

 Don't worry because "the pagans run after all these things" (worry is worldly)

 Don't worry because "God already knows what you need".

#### BODY

 1st Cor 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

 The lesson here is all too clear – our flesh yearns to sin and is attracted to sin, but God has chosen something far better for us.

• In fact, God Himself has chosen to take up residence in us in the person of His Holy Spirit.

• And His call to us is to glorify, "reveal", God in the things we do in this wonderful asset He has provided called our body.

#### **WORDS**

 James 3:7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! 11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring. 13 If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.



 What does a disciple of Jesus do about this unruly member called our tongue?

 I can speak as one with some considerable experience in dealing with the affects of my words.

 James 1:19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, <u>slow to speak</u>, and slow to get angry.

 Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me – this is only true for some people and in some situations.

 According to James our tongues are full of deadly poison, and also able to be a blessing to others. (an enormous amount of power)

• We get to choose so we should present our "tongues" to God as a living sacrifice and enlist His help or we will fail often.

#### **TIME**

 James 4:13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

 After having 5 arteries stented in the past 6 months I am suddenly feeling very mortal and wonder about how many years I have left.

 James asks this question - How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow?

• And I am not naïve enough to think that 20 years ago James' question was irrelevant, but I am wise enough to know that it is more relevant today than it was in the past. ☺

 As a disciple of Jesus I need to understand that the clock is ticking, no matter my age, and be busy for the Lord.

 And let's define "busy" for now as taking a look at my life and asking, "what am I doing with the things I've been given?".

 And I should also ask, "in the time I have left, what will I do to make sure I become more like the One I claim to follow?".

#### **GIFTS**

• 1st Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 11 Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

• Every disciple of Jesus has been given certain gifts when we were born again. (1st Cor 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.)

 As a follower of Jesus it is my duty to discover my spiritual gift and use it to serve others.

 In my opinion, we've made finding and using our spiritual gifts either way too mysterious, or way too clinical.

- I think it makes sense to say that since God's will is good, pleasing, and perfect for you (Rom 12:2) that the gift(s) He gives you will be one(s) you like.
- This is totally unscientific, but my advice for finding your gift is to go try ministries that appeal to you, and then ask God to show you where you fit.

 Nothing bad will happen if you attempt to minister to others with the wrong gift – you just won't be as effective as someone else gifted in that area will be.

#### **MONEY**

 "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose". Jim Elliot

 What would you pay, or what would you trade for the riches of the Kingdom of God?

 If the answer is not "anything I have" then we probably do not understand what God offers and what Christ has purchased for us.



 A disciple of Jesus ought to value and ought to seek the same things that He did.

 When a Rabbi would say to a young man, "come and follow me" the call was for the young man to come and be like the Rabbi.

• If we are to be His disciples, (His followers) then we need to take seriously the call to value what He values.



 In his book, "The Treasure Principle", Randy Alcorn asserts that 15% of Jesus' teachings had to do with money.

 Jesus had more to say about money and its impact on people than He said about Heaven and Hell.

 The reason is probably because while Heaven and Hell are very real places, they are not in the here and now where mankind operates everyday.



- Matt 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."
- In this parable a man is crossing a field that is not his and he comes across a treasure chest buried in the field that was probably unknown to the land owner.
- The "discoverer" decides to sell all that he had and use the proceeds from his auction to buy the field that had the treasure. (he saw the difference between what he had and what was in the field and he organized his life around it)

 Luke 3:7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.... 10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

 When John the Baptist is asked how to produce fruit befitting genuine repentance he answered with three acts that involved money.

• The everyday person was to give to the poor, the tax collector was not to over charge, the soldiers were to avoid extortion and to be content with their wages.

 Why? Because there is a connection between how we handle money and the transformation of our hearts.



Matt 6:19 "<u>Don't store up treasures here on earth</u>, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 <u>Store your treasures in heaven</u>, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 <u>Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be</u>.

 We are here warned against storing up treasures on earth, and encouraged to store them up in heaven because where our treasures lie is where our hearts are.

When John D. Rockefeller died someone asked his accountant how much Mr. Rockefeller left behind and his answer was classic, "he left .... all of it".

 Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

 Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector and it was common for tax collectors to over charge in order to line their own pockets.

• When Zacchaeus met Jesus and believed on Him, his whole view of treasure changed in a moment.



• Mark 12:41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

• It's now how much we give that matters – it's how much we keep that really counts.

### Challenges from Pastor Shane

Large Groups – conduct yourselves appropriately.

• Small Groups – help others to understand resources.

One-on-One – be accountable for managing.

• Alone – ask ourselves the tough management questions.

# Questions / Comments