

North Point Community Church Andy Stanley

Sermon 1: "Winning" 41 min

<https://northpoint.org/messages/winning>

- -Audio begins with a plug for their YouTube channel and Stanley's wish that this content will help people to "take the next step" in their "faith journey."
- -Waited for applause at beginning
- -Why talk about winning? Because winning is better than not winning.
- -He's not a coward, but a 5 (on the enneagram) – And God made him this way. He made Stanley not wanting to do things he can't succeed at doing.
- -He wants to talk about winning, but isn't competitive. Some can relate, but others are so competitive they've lost respect for him (Stanley working to be relatable)
- -Wherever you fall on the spectrum, this topic is important because winning is better than losing, especially in the most important arena: your life
- -Question to leave the congregation with: What's the win?
- -Reference to Solomon and Ecclesiastes → "chasing the wind" is the opposite of winning (vague Scripture use)
- -What's the win in various arenas of life, such as marriage, family, finances?
- -Most never define the win in the most important areas of life. If you don't define it, you'll adopt someone else's definition.
- -Personal examples: Andy determined 7 words he wanted to define him with regard to his character (after all, when people think about you, words come to mind); Andy and his wife determined wins for their marriage and parenthood (always want to be where the other person is/have kids continue to want to be with each other and their parents)
 - -Andy specifically noted that his marriage/parenting goals had no verses to back them up, so to speak
- -"This isn't really about a faith journey" 19:03 – you need this even as a person without faith
- -Consider win statement in the NT – Paul in 1 Cor in passage about being all things to all men.
 - -Paul's win was in response to a failure/loss, and it was for everyone to know what God did in the world by sending Jesus. The win was to win people. (Note that Paul is under what Stanley always calls "Christ's law – to love one another)
 - -"My point is not that you would adopt or adapt his win" 23:14. The point is what Paul said afterward (his motivation/approach, not his end goal)
 - -What comes NEXT (after Paul's win) is for all of us, Christian or not. It's not enough to wish or want. See the sports metaphor; we can see competition around us and know where we are. We need to "run in such a way as to win the prize."

- -29:16 The implication is that we need to live life with the same urgency/focus/order that we would bring to a race or competition.
- -Jesus followers in terms of winning /competing in life do so for a crown that will last forever (so, Stanley is affirming the hope of those who claim to follow Jesus but are actually living in a self-actualizing way. You can't hold onto this hope while "defining your win" in a sub-Christian way).
- -You don't win by hoping, wishing, or praying. You need to prepare, and even say "no" to yourself in order to pursue greater things (like by letting go of certain dating practices because of where you want your dating life to end up)
- -Repeated phrase: "the win for you"
- -When you win, others close to you win, and vice versa.
- -Non-Jesus followers: This is a thing for all of us; we just found a model in the NT. Jesus followers: This is not optional for us. If Jesus was correct, our lives aren't bookended by birth/death certificates. There's much more at stake for us. Others will see, and the world will change.
- -Organization around one main point (a question). General content at beginning, then shift to NT example. The text is not expository, but used as a so-called model without itself being rightly understood.
- -No gospel presentation

Sermon 2: Talking Points, Part 1 35 min

<https://northpoint.org/messages/talking-points/one-is-the-win>

- -Series designed to make you uncomfortable, and hopefully better
- -Subtitle of the series: the perfect blend of politics and religion
- -Stanley as a pastor gets to talk about politics when they intersect with what Jesus teaches
- -There is a diversity of political views in their churches.
- -Nothing divides like politics because nothing divides like fear. What do we fear? Loss.
- Stanley sees democrats and republicans present in his CHURCHES, and loves having the full spectrum present. The people in his churches are not all the same, and he's glad about that. These diverse churches can model disagreeing politically and loving unconditionally.
- -8:20 Question: Do you want to do this/do you think you can do this? Are you willing to evaluate your politics through a filter of faith rather than finding a form of faith to fit your politics (which is what most Christians do)?
- -9:52 Are you willing to follow Jesus, even if it messes with your political ends? The mission of the church is to inspire people to follow Jesus.
- -Apparently Jesus saw division coming, and so He prayed about it in the high priestly prayer.

- -Jesus requested the protection of the disciples so that they may be one as He/the Father are one. This (the disciples' unity) is the thing He was most concerned about at the end of His life – so that the world would change and things wouldn't stall out.
- -He prayed for more generations of Christians, too.
- -Andy imagines virtually none of us request this, that all who call Jesus Lord might be one.
- -Though this sounded impossible, Jesus was convinced it was imperative.
- -We should be intentional for unity in local churches/in the church at large.
- -Prayer for oneness not really b/c of us, but b/c of what He wants to accomplish through us
- -Nudge toward new command, which replaces all others – love one another as I have loved you. Why this love? By this the world will know that you are my disciples (it's not all about them).
- -Need to be unified around core. Andy mentioned baptism/communion included.
- -23:50 Original message: Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus is the King come to reverse the order of things, to bring the kingdom of God (koG). Unlike any other king, He laid down His life for His subjects to create an in-ramp to the Father.

- -Your candidate wins or loses based on a vote, and the church, community, and (in some way) nation win/lose based on how we treat/love each other and the world.
- -We can't let anyone or any thing divide us. Christianity has already done much to unify Western civilization. Why as followers of the eternal King should we let ourselves be divided by temporary political things? By lesser kings? By fear?
- -29:34 Believe Jesus' single command: Believe what you want to believe, vote for who you want to vote for, but don't you dare mistreat someone made in my image.
 - *Some truth, but not well defined, and potentially dangerous at places.
- -
- -10:36 This is God's will for us b/c it's what Jesus prayed for (this being the prayer as Stanley has defined it)
- -Charge to pray for oneness – to pray to be made one in order to influence many (in what way?!)
 - -Charge to look for chance to be unconditionally loving to someone who disagrees with you politically – “your light will shine a little brighter”

Sermon 3: Talking Points, Part 2 38 min

<https://northpoint.org/messages/talking-points/choosing-sides>

- -Willing/able to put faith filter ahead of politics filter, to follow Jesus when it puts space b/w political things we love?
- -Can be involved in politics, but don't let them divide us

- -Everyone thinks their platform is in sync with Jesus, and Andy could preach either side of the political aisle. It's a problem to start with politics. We need to start with faith filter!
- -Jesus did not come to take sides, but to take over. This is a kingdom where the King laid down His life for His subjects rather than demanding the reverse. All are invited to participate in this kingdom.
- -Upside-down kingdom marked by social reversal
- -No kingdom will perfectly align with Jesus
- -Template to help us understand where agreement ends and diverse opinion begins.
- *Repetition: "Jesus-follower"
- -Starting point from Paul is law of Christ (love one another)
- -Under new law, not Torah. We love by taking our cues from Jesus.
- -Bear each other's burdens – law of Christ
- -When the concerns of others concern you and you act on it, you're fulfilling the law of Christ. As Jesus followers, this law should inform our collective conscience.
- -Stanley describes sin (against family, community...). What about sin against/before God? Sin inadequately defined.
- -Jesus left heaven for us and didn't fear guilt by association.
- -This dynamic of Christians loving people shaped Western culture (repeated point in Andy's preaching)
- -Trans-cultural and trans-generational command to do for others what God did for us
- *Need: law of Christ, informed conscience, knowledge+wisdom (an outline of points)
- -Church is so important because it is to be salt and light. It is to shape the conscience of the nation. This is why we can't be divided.
 - -Weird on church/nation stuff, it seems
- -God accommodates to the capacity of His people (can see this in different revelation in Genesis/when Jesus came). In every generation, our knowledge and wisdom increase and we can learn more about God.
- *24:16 Our faith is tethered not to an interpretation of a text, but to an event in history: the resurrection.
 - -Don't fear new science
 - -Incorporate knowledge/wisdom of our age in what we believe
- -We as Christians will always disagree at this third part b/c where you stand depends on where you sit (cultural context, economic status, etc.). This is why many of us don't see conflict b/w faith and politics.
- -Our political views don't emerge in a vacuum. We need to recognize this, though we don't necessarily have to change any of our views.
- -3 things to do: begin to listen to those who don't experience the world as we do, learn (be curious; pay attention to frontiers of your ignorance), love (never burn relational bridges over political views. The you beside you is more important to God than your potentially flawed view. Jesus died for both of you while you were yet sinners (sin not here defined). How dare you burn down a relational bridge with this person, especially if you're a Jesus-follower?)

- -Calvary demands love

Sermon 4: Talking Points, Part 3 31 min

<https://northpoint.org/messages/talking-points/kingdom-first>

- -Familiar with fundamental attribution error? It's a cognitive bias by which we attribute behavior to another person's character, but in our own cases blame circumstances/environmental factors.
- -Political rhetoric feeds this, though it's untrue and we're better than it.
- -Choice to carry someone's burden → this is how change began/how the world changed.
- -Jesus-followers need to wrestle with the big question we've identified (basically about putting faith ahead of politics – see above notes). When we do, things change in our church and culture.
- -Jesus didn't come to be a footnote for our political platform. We rob the world of the message that changed the world when we edit Jesus to fit platform. This is a big deal. Early Christians lost their lives b/c of culturally disruptive unity. Diverse people came together to worship the crucified God in the early church b/c the message was clear: I've come to establish a new kind of kingdom/everyone is invited to participate.
- -Expected/set social orders were turned upside down. This was a disruptive kingdom (repeated word), e.g. espoused dignity for women/slaves
- -The law and the prophets were proclaimed until Jesus, and everyone is forcing their way into the koG → In other words, people are seeing in a new way. (vague biblical reference)
- -We are stewards of the koG in our communities and in the world.
- -45 years after Paul's death, Pliny the Younger spoke about the amazing dynamic of Christian community. Stanley: "These are our people." Pliny – there are morals here lacking in pagan religion. Ruling class found these Christians pathetic, weird, appalling. But many found their community appealing. They didn't abandon the sick or babies, they extended dignity...
- -Jordan Peterson quote: the elevation of the individual soul
- -What would the world be like if we were like this?
- -Their faith became contagious. Against all odds, they survived and shaped Western culture.
- -Their culturally disruptive unity shocked the world, and eventually their message changed the world.
- -Sure, we can be dealing in politics with major issues, and we may never understand others' views. When voting, vote your law of Christ-informed conscience. But in the meantime, carry burdens, and so learn/share about where each other sit/stand, and love unconditionally – so fulfilling the law of Christ.
- -Can make towns, community, nation, and world better by doing this (repeated theme).

Saddleback Church

Rick Warren

Sermon 1: "Only Family That Will Last" 1:14

<https://saddleback.com/watch/this-is-us/the-only-family-that-will-last-forever?autoplay=true>

- -Before the sermon, we hear that we can buy the transcript or access message notes
- -This is the 40yr anniversary year of Saddleback (SDBK)
- -What is the church/why do we do it?
- -God made all things/they're for His glory
- -God invented the universe b/c He wanted a family to love and share His glory
- -Eph. 1 – plan has always been adoption through Jesus. Family allied the church – Mt 16:18
- -Church the most successful movement
- -Mistake: Love Jesus but not the church – bride, body, flock (Eph 5) – Whatever Christ loves, you'd better love. He died for the church/she alone will be in heaven
- -Dif denominational labels, but all followers/in the family
- *Now, after all that lead-in, what is a church? It is not a building, location, or something to attend, but a family you belong to. Biblical definition: God's family on earth/in heaven, composed of saved and baptized believers (references given). They are committed to Jesus and each other.
 - -Possible implication that he thinks Bible studies could be considered church gatherings
 - -Church membership is biblical. We wouldn't even have the word "membership" w/o the Bible.
 - -If baptized before repenting/believing, need to so it again. It didn't mean anything before.
 - -Baptism is the wedding ring of the Christian life.
 - -Implicit: spiritual blessing in baptism
 - -Baptism is the entry door to the church.
 - -You aren't the church by yourself.
- -1 Cor 12:25-27 – model of the human body/interdependence. We live together and are not alone, but practice mutual care.
- -It is God's family in heaven/earth, saved/baptized, committed to Jesus/each other, and preparing for Christ's return (recap/completion of definition of the church).
- -Preparing for heaven → being on God's eternal registry in better than being on the A list of celebrities.
- -How to become a part of the church? Get to know God and Jesus; come to God and come to Jesus
- -We will now discuss 5 metaphors for the church and corresponding benefits for your life

- *Video interview with longtime members reminiscing about the early days. Of particular note: Warren had non-Christians help to plan the services. He includes a lot of video interviews to highlight points he makes and celebrate the church's anniversary. They tend to feel more self-congratulatory than actually helpful to his sermons. Some video content didn't seem to accomplish the goal it allegedly served to accomplish in the message much at all (if at all).
- -benefits of belonging (on metaphors)
- -1. Family → you learn who you are. Ephesians 2:19. Spiritual family more important than physical, and baptism tattoo of the Christian.
- -2. Temple → Together we're the temple, so we each hold each other up. We're supported by each other, and this is what the whole book of Eph is about. Some are in the church but not part of the structure b/c they aren't members. The church is the antidote to the greatest epidemic in the world: loneliness.
- -3. Body (references given) → You can't fulfill your purpose by yourself (another video interview here – general message to go for it in ministry even if you don't think you can do it)
- -4. Flock → Sheep are cared for well (are very dependent). References given. In God's flock, you're defended and cared for, and this should make you confident and less anxious. Pastors are shepherd. Rick has never been paid by SDBK. Pastors/small groups are given to care for you.
 - *53:42 – The one another's can't really be carried out in a big weekend crowd, but only in a small group. Small groups are where the flock really shows up.
 - -Interview – guy doesn't know how non-believers or people not in small groups get through things in life
- -5. Garden/vineyard → We grows and are fruitful working together. Jn 15. In God's garden, my life becomes productive/fruitful, and I make a contribution.
 - -interview – risks taken to be productive. Church history celebrated.
 - -After video: Can you imagine the reward coming to these people who helped build one of the great churches in history? (Whoa, quite confident, to say the least)
- -Nothing greater than the church to spend your life on – to glory of God.
- -We are for good news, not against bad news
- -5 fundamental needs: ID, stability, capacity, security, productivity – church only place to get this
- -Closing Q: Why should you remain disconnected when church family like this has so much to offer you?
- -Final address. To non-members: join. To members: fall in love again.
- -Appeal for a number of temporal blessings in closing prayer

Sermon 2: "What on Earth. . . ?" 1:15

<https://saddleback.com/watch/this-is-us/what-on-earth-am-i-here-for?autoplay=true>

- Most fundamental question this church was built on: what on earth am I here for?
- God has five purposes for your life.
- Slogan Warren prayed for, which God presumably gave him
- Don't find your purpose by looking within; you didn't create you! Talk to your maker and read the owners manual. If usually is one. Our purpose is moving toward a climax (it's not cyclical)
- Colossians 1
- Purpose for all of us/unique purpose for you. We will look at both
- 8:05 - You were made by and for God and you were made to last forever.
- God says like Burger King, have it your way. You get to choose (to have him in your life or not).
- In heaven he will do five things, so practice here. Gods five purposes for your life. We will also get introductions to some of our churches pioneers in videos.
- 16:59. Ricks newer preaching style is an animated conversation starting with a felt need people had in order to be applicable. He developed this at some point along the way as pastor.
- 1: God planned me for his pleasure
- Rev 4:11
- "You were made so God could love you."
- "God gets pleasure in watching you be you..."
- I'm not talking about your sins... It's not all the spiritual stuff..."
- God's love for you is not based on your perfection, but on his character.(so - gospel?)
- We are made in God's image – can love back. Let God love you; learn to love him back. Understand his love, you can't help but love him back. The most important thing in your life is to know him and his love. The most important thing to do is to learn to love him back.
- Worship is letting God love you/loving him back. This can take many forms. The alternative
- or opposite is to worry.
- 2. God formed me for his family. This is a reference to bringing us into family Food Jesus, but Warren doesn't spell it out.
- "God hates loneliness"
- We are not in the family if we are not born again. We need adoption or being born in, and Jesus does both.
- When we are spiritually born again we are in the spiritual family but we must choose to join God's physical family, the church. We are to believe and belong. Being part of his family makes you safe (or saved?)
- Interview – back to Saddleback for support and community
- 3. God created me to become like Christ.
- Jesus as model
- God is more interested in what you're becoming than what you're doing. He's more interested in what you are than what you do. So he cares more about your character and godliness than your career.

- The purposes of life: learn to love God, which is to worship, and learn to love others, which is fellowship.
- God score, and the reason for our pain, it's make us like a Christ, not comfortable. There is a difference between happiness and joy.
- The third goal of life is to grow spiritually, this is discipleship. We are to be against the spiritual immaturity in our culture which focuses on the short term, needing immediate gratification.
- 4. God shipped me to serve him
- We serve him by serving others, making a contribution. We are to do ministry He has uniquely shaped us for.
- In the shape class you can discover your ministry in life.
- Eph 2:10 - Good works are your ministry or service. They are the way you serve God by serving others. You make a contribution to the world and still make the world a better place using your talents to help others.
- Saddleback has 500+ different ministries (to the community). Our motivation is gratitude to God.
- 5 God made me for a mission to pass on the good news. I am to pass on the purposes of life, and Christ forgiveness.
- I am a witness, not a lawyer. I am only in authority on one thing: myself. I am to testify to what Jesus did for me in my life finances etc. Not just in the spiritual realm. I am to preach the good news of what Christ can do.
- Reference to Jesus died for our sins/God making peace between us and himself.
- Our job is to talk about you so you can have with God.
- The mark of maturity is the ability to reproduce.
- Warren claims that the mark of all they do at Saddleback is the Bible
- The church is to help you do these five things. This is the church is purpose. In Acts the early church is an example of the five purposes.
- Salvation statistics
- We are a biblical, New Testament church
- Interview – hard to make it without God.
- Prayer -
- Prayed in name of Father, Son, and Spirit

Sermon 3: The Values... 1:04

<https://saddleback.com/watch/this-is-us/the-values-that-matter-most-to-us?autoplay=true>

- We will talk about the values that matter most to us at Saddleback Church. Some, or rather many, or shared with other Christian churches. They are Bible-based and spirit driven. But what makes saddleback different? Every church needs its own fingerprint, and each is a unique church. There are 10 values that are in the name Saddleback.
- S

- This church is a second chance place of grace. It is a place for a fresh start, to be born again.
- Eph 4:32
- We are famous for having started Celebrate Recovery.
- We understand that every person is broken and needs recovery. We are a shame Freezone, and atmosphere of acceptance. Don't ask a person bleeding to death if it's their fault, but just help. We are to feel God's love and offer it to others. We are not a hotel for saints, but a hospital for sinners. Our message comes out of our mess: our testimony out of our test. We are a family of wounded healers.
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- Col 3:12, Rom 15:7
- We incorporate testimonies, counseling, support groups. If you're broken, we want to hear it. It doesn't matter what your past is, but where you're going.
- A
- All-nation congregation
- Mark 11:17
- *note sketchy use of proof-texts
- We are to love and serve everyone. It is not the church's job to determine who is illegal. We are to love everyone and intentionally reach out to all backgrounds. We are to love and serve everyone. It is not the churches job to determine who is illegal. We are to love everyone and intentionally reach out to all backgrounds. If you don't respect everyone then don't call yourself a Christian. There's no room for racism.
- D
- Focus on doable discipleship
- Do, don't just know. Be active, not passive. I only believe the parts of the Bible I actually do. Focus on changing attitudes and actions in teaching is the way by which we encourage this.
- Mt 28:20 - Do, not know or think about
- We mainly have a verb in every point of our sermons. Championing their church over other churches – this apparently makes them feel good.
- D
- Deliberate pathway for personal growth
- Simple/practical
- Jesus' model for discipleship
- Map to grow on spiritual journey
- SDBK unique - use purpose driven life diamond
- Championing their church over other churches

- Saddleback also uses classes, campaigns,! covenants, and small groups
- L
- Love in action
- 1 Jn 3:16-18
- We primarily do this through global and local PEACE plan combatting various ills.
- Personal value/culture – not all one program. If you see a need you're it
- Shape Guide – discover your shape for service
- Where Jesus to people in your life – feed and clothe people
- E
- Empowered members
- Each is a minister, or servant. How do we have power? Class 301/shape coaching
- 1 Cor 12:27 - all are to be at work
- B
- Bold faith
- Take big risks (in faith)
- Heb 11:6 (a lot of textual use is proof-texty)
- Let the size of God determine the size of your goal. God is a bigger dreamer than you are.
- Use it or lose it
- Eph 3:20
- "You get to choose how much God blesses your life."
- A common denominator in the largest churches is the faith factor; they are not afraid to believe God. Warren claimed to be good at trusting God. Set exponential faith goals – go for 300, not 30 people.
- A
 - Authentic fellowship
 - Don't have to fake it. You help people more through your weaknesses and strengths. Develop through small groups and other fellowship
 - 45:46 This is the only church in the United States to his knowledge with more people per week and small groups then add Weekend church service. Why is this? Because of the biblical model of church meeting in the Temple courts for worship and in houses for fellowship. The church intends to grow larger and smaller at the same time. Heb 10 as small group
 - Job 6:14
 - Mentoring of different types, and a multi-generational church
- C
 - Creative outreach
 - First church (1992) on internet
 - Always early on tech at SDBK!
 - Servant to all Dash Paul talking about Kreative outreach. Why? Everyone needs Jesus. We were created to create and are most like the creator when we create. We must learn to fail fast
- Mk 2:22 - SDBK changes a lot

- Repeated idea: “This probably isn’t the church for you”
- K
 - Kid and family focused Dash multi/generational
 - There are five generations in our church family
 - Roll of attenders:
 - 23-38yrs old (millennials) - 39,401
 - 0-22 (gen z) - 24,739
 - “Jesus said guardian angels are real”
 - We have to care about children to do kingdom work. We only children in our lives to learn what we need to learn.
 - You can come up today to be baptized, and you can become a member by next week’s service.
- Sermon 4: How God Grows our Faith 40 min
- <https://saddleback.com/watch/this-is-us/how-god-grows-our-faith?autoplay=true>
- Talk about this one principle. God will always answer for increased faith. According to your faith your boss you – you get to choose how much he’ll bless your life.
- Col 2:7 - “grow in faith” - his goal for 40 yrs as their “coach.” He wants this for them.
- Two ways God grows your faith: knowing his word, which is the easy way, and circumstances that test me. Got depends more on the second one, and it takes up more of our life.
- Four tests that will come up:q
- 1 God tests and grows our faith through dreams
- Our dreams come from God and are dif so we get everything done.
- Your dream vs God’s dream for your life.
- How know dream is from God? It will help someone/will be so big you’re bound to fail unless God bails you out
- Jer 29:11
- Story of SDBK starting
- “I’ve often thought, how would history be different if my wife had said no” -
- Don’t be a dream-buster
- Courage
- Step w/o peace, w/fears
- Where God guides, God provides.
- “Miracles” in early days in CA
- 20:49 non-believers helped start the church. Cool b/c they knew what would attract them.
- What’s the dream you’re afraid to start/go after?
- Warren’s dream at start of SDBK realized - and surpassed!

- Confidence and dream because it was inspired by God. The most exciting part of the race is the finish line. But we're not there yet. In the last 10 days, we have seen over 300 foundations and about 800-900 (?) baptisms. 2600+ people joined the church.
- Eph 3:20 Dream based on what you think God can do.
- 2 Through delays
- We tend to set goals too low, and to try to accomplish them too quickly. Make life count it was great goals. Regarding these goals we should say "how...if they don't come from God?"
- Most important is not duration but donation of your life
- "This world-class church"
- Hab 2:3
- Obstacles part of journey
- His timing perfect
- While waiting, remember He's in control
- God acts on behalf of those who wait on Him
- Satan's favorite phrase in your life is "you can't do that."
- Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

Southeast Christian Church

Kyle Idleman

Sermon 1: "One day at a Time"

<https://www.southeastchristian.org/sermons/oneatime/one-day-at-a-time>

- Introduction:
 - Lots of services campuses highlighted.
 - Christian season – time to look back and ahead
 - Mentions Jesus came in weakness and will return in strength.

- “everything that happens today matters”
 - God is preparing us for Jesus return and doing so one day at a time.
 - God changes the world one person at a time, hard for us because we want instant results (gives examples).
- Mentions we want instant results but takes time. Once we surrender and put our trust in Jesus we start out on the path – closest to the gospel he comes in the sermon.
- Luke 2 (main text)
 - Jesus took one day at a time to get to Luke 3 (when he was 29 and ready for earthy text).
 - Every year/as usual (used this to show Jesus’ routine).
 - At 9:08, says Jesus begins to discover his destiny (as Messiah).
 - Does that in his routine of going to the temple.
 - “Habits determine the direction” of Jesus life. Not just a big transition moment.
 - Kyle thinks this is where Jesus knows fully who He is – this is why he’s here.
 - At 14:40 – Jesus was not born omniscient.
 - “we may have to choose between disappointing God and someone else” Jesus disappointed His mother.
 - Jesus was growing and maturing in order to change the world.
 - There is no mention of how His obedience is meant to be saving.
 - God meets with us in obscurity and silence (like here with Jesus).
 - Jesus grew in:
 - Wisdom – defines it.
 - Stature – Idelman lectures against “man-boys”
 - Favor with God – Jesus’ obedience pleased God as a parent as He grew more independent.
 - Favor with man – became more known.
 - “grew”
 - Daily habit questions to gauge you are growing in these areas:
 - “did you ask for wisdom today?”
 - Did you listen to wise advice?
 - Who did you spend time with?
 - Are you a good steward with your resources?
 - What sin did you repent of?
 - Could imply Jesus needed to repent because we’re supposed to grow like Jesus did.
 - Do you need to reconcile with someone?
 - Who did I encourage today?
 - Habit-stacking – whenever you do one thing, associate it another thing. (i.e. confess sin in the shower).
 - To non-Christian he invites them to do these things and “become a better version of yourself.” But if you aren’t empowered by the spirit you won’t become who God wants you to be.

“Sermon 2: One decision at a time” 37 min

<https://www.southeastchristian.org/sermons/oneatotime/one-decision-at-a-time>

- Introduction:
 - 2020 – we’re not quite where we thought we would be.
 - Question: how did I get to where I am? How do I get to where I want to be?
 - Answer: one decision at a time.
 - Life is the sum of your choices –decisions decide life.
 - We understand the effect of small decisions.
 - Likes to quote from self-help books.
- Texts (?)
 - Gal 6:7
 - You reap what you sow – that’s a law, he says.
 - John 1 – the decisions we make have the power to determine who we will be.
 - Little to no explanation as to why these texts prove this.
- Other stuff:
 - One decision at a time is how Jesus changed the world – he repeats “Jesus changed the world a lot.
 - You want more Jesus and less of you, this shape decisions.
 - What do you really want? Ask this to make the right choice (momentary decisions against big picture decisions).
 - Kyle – weight immediate gratification against longterm goals.
 - Gospel changed the world one person at a time (doesn’t define the gospel).
 - Our mission: prepare the world for Jesus’ return.
 - The application is more for Christians especially church members (good!).
 - Two decisions to make:
 - Decide to be the branch – spend 1% of your time connecting with Jesus.
 - Wreck the roof – invite one person to church.
 - Asks them to raise their hands to signify why they came.
 - Asks them to give 1% more of their income.
 - “Decide to become a follower of Jesus today”
 - He says it is most important decision – top button of your shirt because it aligns all the other buttons.

Sermon 3: One dollar at a time:

<https://www.southeastchristian.org/sermons/oneatotime/one-dollar-at-a-time>

- Introduction:
 - Jesus talks a lot about money, gauges our hearts (calls money God’s chief competition).
- Luke 21 – story of woman with two coins:

- Heaven hears differently than we do because God hears the loud throwing of coins (from the rich).
- A little adds up.
- Runs through recent events in SE's church life, announced new campus.
 - Notes church is not the building.
 - "catch the wind" – whatever that means.
- Jesus knows God will care for the widow and she will be reward.
- God owns everything.
- "The Bible says in Psalms.." (no reference)
- More is defined by proportion not portion.
- Tells story about going to Kenya to speak and receiving a collection of 12 dollars from them – likes to say that's the most he's received to speak.
 - This sort of giving "moves heart of God"/gets the attention of Jesus.
- With David, he wants his gifts to cost.
- Not equal gifts among members, but equal sacrifice.
- Pastors don't know how much people give, giving not an obligation.
 - Mentions commitment cards to pledge 1% more of income.
- No gospel mentioned

Sermon 4: One need at a time: 39 min

<https://www.southeastchristian.org/sermons/oneatatime/one-need-at-a-time-1>

- Introduction:
 - Jesus unexpected influence – loved people one at a time, met one need at a time.
- Matthew 15 (main text):
 - Most of us want to live this sort of life but feel we can (for various reasons).
 - This was a time when Jesus felt tank was empty.
 - Question: what do we want to be about as a church?
 - The word that unlocks the one at a time life: compassion.
 - Compassion – emotion or feeling Jesus felt more than any other (feeling) 11:30
 - Elicits physical response.
 - Illustrates with a story about his son – Jesus sees you in this way (you are a son or daughter of God, he says indiscriminately to the audience).
 - We need to see cumulative effect of meeting small needs.
 - Idleman references sin and says to confess to an elder of the church.
 - Some ways to grow in compassion:
 - Ask Jesus to give you his eyes for people – supernatural understanding of how to help.
 - Compassion helps us see God differently without preaching to them.
 - Ask yourself what it would be like to have that need.

- Plays a clip from a sermon at Lagrange campus (very long part of the sermon).
- If you are online, people can pray for you.
- Invitation is to have people be prayed for.

Crossroads Church
Brian Tome

Sermon 1: TENACITY (week 2) 32 min

<https://www.crossroads.net/media/series/win-this-year/tenacity-or-win-this-year-week-2?autoplay=true&sound=11>

- Introduction: 1 Cor 9:24
 - “to win is to find God’s will for you life and accomplish it.”
 - Tenacity means not being able to be easily pulled apart.
 - Series is getting into Joshua.
- Main text, sort of: Joshua!
 - Mentions that Israel still exists and is tenacious.
 - Hold continuity between the two (modern and biblical).
 - Areas where you feel like you need to win – God gives you a vision to fight for.
 - Three big ideas:
 - Jericho and es – Rahab is a lesson than not matter how bad your 2019 was, in 2020 you can be a winner (he is a little coarse with his joking). God wants to use you right now. Futre and a plan. Choose to win. God is always up for a second chance. There is an evil one who wants to keep you losing.
 - Then plays 8 minute clip of Phantom Lake – their new amazon prime series.
 - Satisfied Small wins
 - Tome’s win this year? 100,000 social media followers so he can spread spiritual influence.
 - Joshua 6:3
 - Tenacity is about the fundamentals.
 - Know what they are and build them (never defines them).
 - Be in a small group? Israel moved in small groups – Joshua 6
 - Tells story about how they wanted a building on wall street so they marched around in like Joshua and the boys – apparently, it worked. “Received the miracle.”
 - “God spoke to me.” 38:43 – distinguishes God’s voice by it being something he wouldn’t have thought of and Jesus would approve of.
 - God will still do miracles – will you give him his win?

- No gospel.

Sermon 2: Target 42 min

<https://www.crossroads.net/media/series/win-this-year/target-or-win-this-year-week-1?autoplay=true&sound=11>

- Introduction:
 - 2020 was the best year yet (gives examples).
 - God wants you to win.
 - Makes fun of “churchy-church people” who are “there for church, not winning”
 - Goes back to 1 Cor 9:24 – run to win.
 - You should win in every area of life, it’s a biblical commandment.
 - The theme of the series in Israel under Joshua
 - Give brief history of Israel. Says Israel didn’t have a winning mindset so they couldn’t get into the Land.
 - 2019 is dead, win in 2020.
- Joshua 1:16 (generous to call it a main point) – winning takes vision.
 - Know what you want! Not what you need or what you think God wants from you.
 - Plays a video (more Phantom Lake).
 - Notes that people who are hardcore into God tithe.
 - It can be frustrating to get to a new place but the Jordan was a barrier to a new place.
 - Israel given the land and ability to fight for it. You have to ask yourself if you really want it. Don’t set a goal for something you don’t want. Brace for a fight!
 - We fail resolutions due to lack of desire. Don’t let go and let go – take possession of these things (a la Israel).
 - Various areas where you might want more – doesn’t have to be spiritual in nature.
 - Mentions Phil 2:12
 - Mentions 3 distinct periods of being saved:
 - Delivered from what you can’t handle (flesh and sinfulness) into relationship.
 - Saved now.
 - Will be saved in the future
 - Tome saved when he “asked Jesus into his life” at 16.
 - Need unconventional weapons to win – like listening.
 - Called to consecrate themselves to God and get a guide.
 - 39:08 – what does it mean to be a Christian, he asks. “Most of us in here don’t have a clue.” What are the key spiritual power principles that set apart a Christian? – will talk about answers in the future.
 - God will do what only he will do. We still need to be working.

Sermon 3: People over politics (don't panic – week 1) 42 min

<https://www.crossroads.net/media/series/dont-panic-take-heart-2020/people-over-politics-or-dont-panic-week-1?autoplay=true&sound=11>

- Introduction:
 - Open for everyone to be offended today.
 - Generally tries to avoid politics – we tend to believe myth that this election is most important ever. He wants to lower the frenzy. A radical middle!
 - Virtually nothing in the Bible about politics – not a Christian duty to vote. There is only one election in the Bible, when they cast lots for the new disciple and God may not have even been thrilled about it.
- Joshua:
 - Asks “are you for us or for your enemies?” – that’s our question, we can’t wedge God into the things we want him to.
 - Take heart: his kingdom is not of this world.
 - “What does it mean to be an American?”
 - explains different parties
 - He chooses to be in the kingdom with Jesus as king.
 - Briefly mentions sin and brokenness, never defines.
 - People of both parties equally loved by God.
 - God cares for your life because you are image and Jesus died for you.
 - You are called to humble yourself and listen to others.
 - Humility is thinking of self less; politics not filled with humility.
 - Hope is not in either party (good).
 - Tome has the crowd play a cheering game – maybe to break the tension.
 - Personal impact over parties.
 - Colossians 1 is mentioned – not a big deal, or explained.
 - Tome understands his privilege in not having big stake in lots of political issues.
 - We have peace from God not matter who the president is – don’t forfeit it!
 - Sermon on the mount – blessed are the peacemakers. Not making peace? Not a son of God.
 - Hebrews – “strive for holiness without one will not see the Lord” – sort of uses it to make a point, not clear what.
 - Joshua 5:14
 - 40:42 – “when a person takes their eye off party politics we see holy ground. There is a spiritual change or turn.”

Sermon 4: Love | Advent Week 4 37 min

<https://www.crossroads.net/media/series/advent/love-or-advent-week-4?autoplay=true&sound=11>

- Introduction: wants to talk story of Magi
 - Christian story is crazy; God isn't in the normal (loves miracles).
 - Magi were not present at Jesus birth, he notes.
 - Notes that we can see some of the history evidenced in modern Middle East and see God's love in the story.
 - We love Christmas because we are emotional people.
 - Plays some clips of Christmas movies.
 - In culture, love is what you feel. With God, love is what you do.
 - Tome got to "be God" to a flu shot giver by not being rude.
 - Feeling can accompany love but is not love.
 - God says love is for the unworthy.
 - 26:30 – When we are opposed to God, He doesn't have good emotions toward us but loves us and does good things for us.
 - 27:15 – gets closest to gospel. Our sin put up a barrier but Christ died for us. Mentions Romans and says Christ died for ungodly. Notes they will celebrate communion.
 - If Christmas is true you can be saved by grace. Love is not earned.
 - Luke 6:35- start doing love and things will change.
 - Write what you are going to do on a card.

Gateway Church
Robert (Bob) Morris

Note: most organized sermons.

Sermon 1: King of Kings (text: Matthew 2) 27 min

<https://gatewaypeople.com/sermons/the-king-of-kings>

- Point 1 – the joyous kings
 - Reads the passage (unusual for these guys).
 - Notes the wise men weren't there. They used Balaams prophecy to know about the star. Speculates on the star.
 - Feel joy about these things!
 - They weren't messed up about rejoicing before a toddler.
 - Before then, they had to be told what the Bible said but now God talks to them directly.
 - Two parts that go into joy:
 - Giving and worship
 - Want joy? Then be extravagant giver/worshipper.
 - Let yourself go sometimes in church (asks them to tell each other that).
- Point 2 – the jealous/selfish king
 - No joy – died of disease (gets into Herod's background).
 - Staying on control, like Herod, removes joy.

- Point 3 – the just king
 - Jesus is justified to be king. Reads some of Luke account. “the creator...comes to earth as a helpless vulnerable baby...opposite the Herodian spirit.” (Phil 2) We find life by losing it.
 - Wrapped Jesus in burial clothes – born to die. We are to sacrifice for others like him.
 - The Lord gave Morris this one burden – what he just preached about.

Sermon 2: The Robe of Righteousness (from series Sons, not servants): 33 min

<https://gatewaypeople.com/series/sons-not-servants?sermon=the-robe-of-righteousness>

- Introduction:
 - We serve because we are sons, not vice versa.
 - Yes, we do serve and yes the term sons is gender inclusive.
- Text: Prodigal son (Luke 15) – examining the son given robe, ring, and shoes (the three sermons).
 - The robe of righteousness:
 - The blessed life is enough for me and to share. Look for servant and son language in Luke 15. The Father will run to you. The son doesn't get to finish his speech. The gifts would normally be taken from servants and given to son.
 - Mentions Isa 61:10 – righteousness is right standing with God.
 - Point 1: earned or a gift? All a gift.
 - The son is not worthy of the robe. Maybe he felt he was worthy before but not now (interprets parables liberally). We aren't worthy.
 - He defines imputation as “balancing your account.” (good on him to mention imputation).
 - Jesus takes our debts, we receive his assets. We are adopted son.
 - Mentions Romans 4:6. He did talk about a time when he didn't behave well – mentions he was not a Christian, highlighting the need for people to be converted.)
 - Point 2: Don't listen to the accuser
 - Even the good we do isn't adequate – it is inequitable with God.
 - The accuser was thrown down, there is no accuser now at God's right hand but an intercessor. He removes our iniquity, rebukes the accuser, and robes you. “This is a substitutionary, propitiatory, blood-bought salvation.”
 - Point 3: live like a son.
 - Righteousness is a gift but we have the Spirit to live righteously.
 - We are clothed with many things:
 - Fine linen – our good deeds (Revelation 19)
 - Robe of righteousness – Jesus' good deeds

- God has made it right between you and him because of what Jesus did – you just need to receive it.
 - Nothing on repentance in response to the gospel.

Sermon 3: the ring of authority (same series) 33 min

<https://gatewaypeople.com/series/sons-not-servants?sermon=the-ring-of-authority>

- Introduction:
 - Looked at what rings mean in the Bible.
 - Authority is given by grace and delegated by God.
 - To walk in authority, we need three things:
 - Point 1: Humility
 - “Jesus lays down all his divinity.”
 - No authority, no humility.
 - Point 2: faith.
 - Tells story about his wife’s health. He says “I said, Satan, why don’t you fight like a man? I’m a covering for her. Is there an open door in my life (secret pride)?”
 - God said he was having issues because they were winning. Two lies he was believing:
 - That these bad events are normal.
 - That its normal for God’s children to lose.
 - Point 3: obedience
 - Story of one person saying he won’t go work but does and the son who does the opposite.
 - If you don’t walk in obedience, you won’t walk in authority.
 - Story of his daughter walking in disobedience but when she repented he migraines (a result of an open door to the enemy) ceased.
 - Don’t be ashamed but be convicted.

Sermon 4: the shoes of sonship 38 min

<https://gatewaypeople.com/series/sons-not-servants?sermon=The-Shoes-of-Sonship>

- Point 1: take your shoes off
 - Shoes represent rights, taking off shoes represents right. Moses and Joshua took off their shoes? Tried to trace shoes image through the Bible
 - Give up your rights.
- Point 2: Put your shoes back on.
 - Put on the rights of sonship.
 - Moses and Joshua put their shoes back on and led for God.
 - The rights of sonship – too many to name, of course – include:
 - Power to share gospel, power of enemy, and freedom.

- Mentions wanting to get back to his “original burden” which is the “Lord’s burden.” The series title is his burden – sons, not servants.
- Why are there two sons in the story?
 - Presence and provision of God.
 - We see that God loves to recover stolen kids.
 - Calls out Phariseeism.
- If you think you earned God’s favor, you’ll expect others to earn yours.
- God loves you however you act.
 - There isn’t much discussion on the inside/outside of God’s love.
- The son had to give up his rights and get them back.
- The son has will and so he must use his will (as opposed to parables of coin and sheep) to give up his authority.
- Morris recounts a conversation he had with God – God said Morris couldn’t be angry with someone because God wasn’t mad at anyone anymore even though they all “put my Son on the cross.”

Christ’s Church of the Valley – all around 35 minutes
Ashley Woodridge

Sermon 1: Atomic Habits (Part 2)

<https://ccv.church/watch/message?MessageId=6310>

- Small change creates big results.
- The center of change is who you are. Determine who you want to be over who you want to do. Goals set direction. Much of life results from habits.
- Daniel 6:10:
 - Question: how does Daniel have an upward trajectory in life? Small daily habit in his life.
 - What is one new habit you need to start?
 - Three ways, from experts, to start and stick with a habit. He plans to show from Scripture how biblical these are too. Finally, he wants to point out the keystone habit for transformation. Likes to quote from self-help books.
 - One – Make it obvious (make it visual).
 - Start with a cue. Motivation has zero impact on habits. You need a time/location.
 - Many think they lack motivation but lack clarity.
 - Visual is key – small observable change is helpful to motivate.
 - Two – make it easy (Matthew 11:30)
 - “Yoke is easy, burden is light.” Just uses the words.
 - Start small so you’ll do it.
 - Life change happens when we do things a lot.
 - Three – use community
 - Get into a neighborhood group.

- Keystone habit for change: engaging daily in God’s Word
 - Helps with all kinds of areas.
 - “The Bible says this, but now we have conclusive proof (from the studies).”
 - Tells some stories, shows a video.

Sermon 2: Atomic Habits (Part 1)

<https://ccv.church/watch/message?MessageId=6285>

- “Who” over “do.”
- Question: how many want this year to be better? Need to change your habits. You are the sum of your habits. Stats say you won’t keep your resolutions. Sermon series will help you to.
- We don’t see change even though we are committed – why?
 - One – we underestimate small change.
 - Outside of turning to Jesus and being baptized, change comes in small steps.
 - Two – we give up quickly because we don’t see change fast enough.
 - You have to go through the valley of disappointment to see change.
 - Gal 6:5 – uses verse out of context.
 - Three – we start with do, not who.
 - Three levels of change:
 - What to do
 - How to do it.
 - The who – identify, beliefs, and values.
 - Romans 12:1, God makes it clear that the “who” comes first.
 - He has a list of things he wants to do, invites them to write down who they want to be.
 - No gospel.

Sermon 3: Atomic Habits (Part 3)

<https://ccv.church/watch/message?MessageId=6319>

- About stopping bad habits.
- Romans 7 – Paul breaking bad habits.
- Why is it so hard to overcome bad habits? Easy results; you don’t feel the immediate risk. Good habits are hard.
- These are opposite points to last message:
 - One – make it invisible
 - Remove the temptation.
 - Focus on visual cues.
 - Matt 6: eye is lamp of the body, so attach what you see.
 - Two – make it difficult.
 - What are you willing to do to break the bad habit?

- Take the narrow road, he says.
 - Three – make this include the right community.
 - Walk with the wise. Join a neighborhood groups.
 - You have more self-control than you give yourself credit for.
- X-factor of habit change: Jesus.
 - Jesus lived perfect life, died for all, and rose again. He offers to make you a new person when you turn your life to him. He mentions Ezekiel 36, response is unclear.

Sermon 4: Owner v. General Manager (Series: Nemesis)

<https://ccv.church/watch/message?MessageId=6365>

- A nemesis won't go away – what's the one thing that stands against God in your life? Jesus points to one: money.
- Matthew 6:24ff. – can't serve two masters
 - Explains mammon as spiritual or false god you trust.
 - Mammon tells you that you are owner of money but you are a general manager (main point):
 - Mentions tithing as 10 percent, offering as anything above that, and you have to tithe. (per Malachi 3:8)
 - He invites them to test God by tithing and God will bless them.
 - Two video stories.
 - Trust God and be blessed or you will be miserable.
 - Mentions the bride of Christ is the local church.

Elevation Church

Steven Furtick

Sermon 1: The Father Saw (When you feel invisible): 52 min

<https://elevationchurch.org/sermons/the-father-saw-when-you-feel-invisible-kingdom-clout-part-2/>

- Text – Matthew 6:1-4 (motives, not money).
- What to do when the world doesn't give out trophies – world gives trophies for the wrong things. Doing things for God will get you overlooked by others.
- There is the temptation to be seen to that keeps us from God – we celebrate the wrong stuff. We should act according to character with God as our audience.
- Calls them to repeat – “my reward is from the Lord” many times.
- Your Father saw what you did.
- God gave him this message, he says.
- Asks everyone to stand who has a hard time celebrating themselves. Its fine to celebrate yourselves, just not out of pride.
- We are set free from people.
 - Furtick is extremely self-referential (“I can't preach any harder than this”)

- The enemy distracts and discourages.
- We can focus when we know the Father saw.
 - No clear organization in the sermon. Plays off crowd.
- Prodigal son – you need God even in the fight (even when you are high or drunk).
 - The prodigal son is on social media asking to be filled – Furtick talks a lot about social media.
 - Piles up lots of random, silly phrases.
- 38:04 – “even if you come to God for the wrong reasons, he has what you need. Because the parable says the son wasn’t repentant, just hungry. He doesn’t care why you come to church, just what you get.”
- We beat ourselves up but God doesn’t. God sees you (indiscriminately) through the lens of what Jesus has done.
- The Father embraces the son for who he really was. God sees and chooses the real us. Sees us as the righteousness of Jesus.

Sermon 2: Ghosted (on a series about, no joke, “kingdom clout”): 44 min

<https://elevationchurch.org/sermons/ghosted/>

- Acts 1 is the backstory of Elevation Church (nice).
- God has purpose or plan, get on the same page and things will happen.
 - God gave authority to the disciples.
 - Do we live chasing or chosen (chosen is their word for the year).
- We are clout chasers but we aren’t to know everything, including the opinions of others.
- “Did Jesus ghost his disciples?” No, they still have the power of his presence.
 - 14:16 – everywhere His presence is welcome, power is available.
 - The power of Jesus is powerful when you run out of stuff. Invite him to wedding, boat, doesn’t matter, he’ll help.
 - Be careful getting too close – he might resurrect you!
 - Power of Jesus’ absence. Jesus isn’t limited by physical dimension. “He never leaves but changes form.” *
- Conflicting concept of kingdom:
 - Jesus is not there physically but he indwells them – not what they wanted or what felt good (interjects and asks “can I preach for a little bit?”
 - God wanted him to preach on this topic of ghosted.
 - “this is such a good sermon, Lord. Thank you for showing me this.”
- Change is for your good, even when it doesn’t seem like it.
 - “Wait in Jerusalem for the gift.” – repeats often.
 - Jesus believed in women preachers, he notes.
 - The place you call “lack” is where the Spirit wants to be.
- “I declare the Spirit of God is in you..God is bringing your into something better as we speak.

Sermon 3: Flip the bag (also from kingdom clout) 50 min

<https://elevationchurch.org/sermons/flip-the-bag/>

- On the parable of the talents. Steven was glad God gave him permission to preach this. He plans to read the story differently to illuminate what God wants to highlight.
- Popular misconception we are stuck with what we start with:
 - Says they doubled their services and it worked out. God trusts them. Use what God gave you. “Can I preach this?” he asks.
- If you can see where I started, don’t judge where I’m at.
- Flip the bag – it’s not about what you start with but about how fast you can flip it (before the devil snatches it) because God a multiplier.
- Treat the word as seed and share it, act on it.
 - Very unorganized.
- Joy is found in obeying the master; don’t attach security in stuff.
- Steven gives nicknames to the people – “one bag Billy” for example.
 - Psychologizes their reasons for insecurity and disobedience.
 - The world worships the bag, but what’s in it?
- 30 minute mark – God didn’t treat him how he deserved, cancelled his sins, gave him eternal life. Break down blessings and invest them back.
- Don’t let the devil diminish what you have; there is a gift in you from the master.
- Flipping the bag stops with believing God – he never makes a withdrawal unless he’s made a deposit.
- Enemy wants you to hide what’s God’s. Don’t doubt what you’ve been given.
- Furtick leads a kind of sinners prayer – surrender to Jesus, you need his finished work (never clearly defined).
 - Everyone celebrates!

Sermon 4: your season to succeed 42 min

<https://elevationchurch.org/sermons/your-season-to-succeed/>

- Main point: stuff that matters is hard to measure.
- Psalm 1: The who, what, when of success:
 - Who – the voice listened to determines success. We want approval of God. Fruitful, not famous.
 - David starts Psalms most important to him with “blessed,” apparently.
 - Luke 17:20 – lauds growing in application of Scripture but not knowing Scriptures.
 - “People think they’re better Christians because they read the Bible but they just like to read.”
 - You can only bear your own fruit (tree yields *its* fruit). Furtick feels freedom in the house.
 - Winning is bearing fruit in season – just produce what’s in you in this moment.
 - Jesus receives God’s approval at his baptism.
 - “you are enough for God.” Success is bringing out what God put in.
 - Likes to pause for applause and cheering.
 - No real gospel.

- Fires the crowd up with voice, phrases, etc.

Christ Fellowship Church
Todd Mullins

Sermon 1: The God of More than Enough 37 min

<https://youtu.be/Trh6AUugbUE>

- Starts by highlighting baptism service next week and prophesies that people will want to participate in that.
- Elijah and Elisha – be bold in prayer for more blessing. God is the God of more than enough and wants to give abundance in all areas of life.
- Experience abundance – 2 Kings 4 (Shunnamite woman)
 - Open to God’s Word (prophet)
 - Make room for the miracle.
 - God was a resident with full access, not a little space.
 - Mullins uses the passage to make a point.
 - The lady need to clean up to make room for the word – what about you? Jumps from narrative to application quickly.
- Mullins declares, in faith, that it will all be ok. Hebrews 11 – faith is declaring in the midst of darkness the things that we are sure of.
- We need the church to help us
- Want to experience God? Make room for him.
- What do you need less of? Social media, etc?
 - Mullins has people raise their hands.

Sermon 2: What do you see next? (Week 1): 40 min

<https://youtu.be/HaBV9vDrLFM>

- We haven’t started a year like this year. Psalm 65:11 – we want to start with the promise of favor this year.
- God is a God of abundance and there is nothing holy or spiritual about lack.
 - Psalm 23 says David won’t lack – not in relationships, finance, etc.
 - Believing is seeing. What you see is what you will become. You need to make “who” v. “do” goals.
 - Focus shapes future.
- Matthew 25 – parable of talents:
 - What did you do with my son?
 - What did you do with what I gave you?
 - We want to live to answer these two.
 - Here’s what we learn:
 - You don’t own.
 - You can’t earn grace.
 - What you think about God is most important thing about you because it shapes what you become (sort of a main point).

- There is no judgment, just love and acceptance. We are loved because of who we are. We need to remove what blocks our view of God and real us so we can have what God wants this year.
- Give Jesus the first part of every day – 15 minutes (read, song, prayer).
- First part of week – come to church.
 - Prayer to surrender to Jesus (sinners prayer kind of thing). Not specific.

Sermon 3: What do you see next? (Week 2): 38 min

<https://youtu.be/F457hWtcHyU>

- Clarifies that the series is to give clear vision of what God wants for them this year.
- What if your view is stuck between what it used to be and where you want to be?
 - What you do in the middle matters.
 - Vision matters to Jesus – he helps blind men, after all.
- Mark 10:46 – blind Bartimaeus, a man stuck in the middle.
 - It starts with a cry of faith – Jesus, son of David. First step to experience supernatural.
 - Faith believes what Jesus did is for you. Cross carrying, rising from the dead for you (still not clear on the gospel).
 - Position yourself to experience God. God can do whatever he wants but you can position yourself.
 - Some people will discourage you (like Bartimeus) but you run after Jesus. He threw off his coat – so take off the old and Jesus will make things new.
 - Jesus sets free without judgement – just need a simple prayer to see. A friend was healed of cancer by praying.
 - Are those near you close to Jesus?
 - One challenge: get a whole new group of people around you. Group up to grow up – sign up for a small group.
 - No clear gospel.

Sermon 4: What do you see next? (Week 4):38 min

https://youtu.be/Rhr_WDj_OG8

- Starts with illustration of one of those things you put discs in and look through them. He's going to talk about a few "dangerous discs" to put before your eyes: fear and anxiety.
- John 20:19 – disciples are together after Jesus' death. They are afraid, etc. Anxiety for the disciples until their encounter with Jesus.
 - We need to be careful about what stories we listen to (Phil 4:6).
 - Worry never adds, only steals. (psychologizes)
 - Jesus' presence doesn't necessarily change problems but perspective.
 - Mullins believes God wants to speak three words over their lives:
 - One – peace
 - Shalom – well being because of right relationship with God.
 - Two – purpose

- We are sent. Jesus was sent by God to reconcile humanity and we are tied to the purposes of heaven. We are to be holy. Live life in light of the end.
 - Three – power
 - Jesus is the only path. The spirit is the only One who can help us in certain ways. Relationship and religion.
 - In that room, they experience God. Thomas missed out and couldn't move on.
 - Who do you hang out with?
- We need a Jesus encounter to deal with our fear and anxiety.
- Phil 4 – turn worry in prayer.
- Challenge: Don't wait for a problem to pray. Set new rhythms. Don't say "amen" – keep the conversation open all day long. Prayer declares God's peace over your problems.
- Mullins asks them to hold their hands out and receive from God – says to start or "Restart with God."

Church of the Highlands

Chris Hodges

Sermon 1: Wrestlemania (Series: God Encounters) 38 mins

<https://www.churchofthehighlands.com/media/message/wrestlemania>

- Introduction:
 - Purpose of the series is to help with family, kids, etc.
 - "If you'll go all out for God; give best spiritually – this will be best year ever."
 - We are "triune beings"(body, soul, spirit)
 - Mentions ease of access to church campuses, services, etc.
 - This is the "most meaningful time in your life."
 - To emphasize prayer and fasting, he admits "my abilities are not enough" to help the church.
 - He likes to make jokes, mostly self-deprecating.
 - He mentions that being made in God's image means having God's Spirit but then does clarify a bit. Actually he seems to think only those born again are "image."
 - The idea of the series: we need encounter God, not just know about Him.
 - We play a role in "god encounters"
 - Big on "inviting" or attracting God.
- Today's text: Jacob in Gen 32
 - Jacob's life is marked by struggle – so what's your struggle?
 - Note quick move from narrative detail to application.
 - Does read the whole passage.

- Claims the man Jacob wrestles with is Jesus.
- Around 14:00 – “Stirring in my soul that there..are things we don’t need in 2020. I’m not letting go until He blesses me.”
- Affirms the possibility of change but only when we “wrestle the right way.”
- God says let me bless you – trust me.
 - Hodges says many of us are wrestling between who we’ve become and who we thought we’d be.
- 3 wrestling matches (kind of from the story) and how to get over them:
 - 1 – Wrestling with our past, don’t dwell on it.
 - 2 – wrestling with secrets.
 - 3 – wrestling with God
- Invites the audience to “confess your rebellion.”
- “Don’t test the patience of the Lord.” That’s why we experience conflict.
- 2 ways to encounter God (29:30ish) (cue music in the background):
 - Brokenness before breakthrough.
 - Mentions sthat but doesn’t explain it.
 - “can’t be righteous on our own.”
- “God all in (with God) or you will go to heaven wrestling all the way.” (33:20)

Sermon 2: Mirror, Mirror (God Encounters) – 35 mins

<https://www.churchofthehighlands.com/media/message/mirror-mirror1>

- Introduction:
 - Emphasizes what we can do to encounter God.
 - He uses “feels led” a lot and makes his role in their spiritual lives very clear.
 - Talks like everyone is a visitor, fill out a card once a year for accurate pastoral care.
- Text (sort of): 2 Cor 3:16
 - “they” in the text means “anyone who wants to” (5:10)
 - Moses met fact to face with God.
 - “veil” is symbol of a barrier between us and God.
 - The veil being removed proves God is personal.
 - The OT law is compared to the things we can’t breakthrough.
 - Works on beliefs about yourself – we think badly about ourselves.
 - Do you live how God defines you, he asks. He assumes God views everyone as good with Him.
 - What mirror do you look into?
 - Failure/rejection – almost helpful, says not to define ourselves by our failures but does not mention sin.

- “God never sees you by what you did; He sees you by what you can become.” (just before 11:00).
 - Social pressure (what others says)
 - Says not to believe the lies of the world.
 - Once you believe rightly, everything will turn around.
 - Inferiority – long speech on how untalented he is.
- How do you find out who you are? Ask the One who made you.
 - Find it in the Word.
 - He never differentiates between believers and unbelievers.
- If you look intently – undefined reward.
- Moses, he says, dealing with identity issues and insecurity.
 - He knows he was made for more.
 - Pastor wants you to confront 4 insecurities like Moses in Exodus:
 - Who am I?
 - God’s answers with who God is.
 - Be defined by what Jesus paid for on the cross.
 - Lack of confidence in yourself means you don’t believe God enough.
- Says “fire insurance” faith is all you need but doesn’t recommend it.
- God won’t transform you until you come to Him.
- Music starts again during conclusion.
 - Applies the text to those worried about leading small groups.

Sermon 3: No Pain, No Gain (God Encounters) 34 min

<https://www.churchofthehighlands.com/media/message/no-pain-no-gain>

- Introduction:
 - “I want more encounters with God.”
 - Experiences of God happen inside of us all.
 - Mentions the value of unity amid diversity.
 - “Whats our role?”
 - This week: how God moves on your darkest days (suffering theme).
 - Points towards eternity but then quickly lightens the mood with a joke about heaven.
 - Says suffering should be expected.
 - Promises God’s presence on dark days – to everyone.
 - Mentions his conversion – the first time he indicates you can be unsaved.
 - Have to ignore feelings of doubt/anger and realize that suffering can benefit us.
- Main text: Isaiah 6
 - Says the context is Isaiah dealing with the text of Uzzah, the king. He respected him.
 - Isaiah sees the Lord in his pain and sees three things:
 - He says the foundations/threshold symbolize the foundations of our lives.

- 13:50 – “We sing more songs about God, less about us.”
 - 1 – Saw how big God is.
 - 2 – Woe is me
 - affirms God’s holiness.
 - We only realize who we are in light of God.
 - Says nothing commends us to God.
 - Sin is atoned for – doesn’t explain how/why.
 - Sin is not defined. The devil is the one who condemns; God only convicts.
 - 3 – sees future clearly
 - pain is used for future good.
 - It’s our choice how pain is used.
- 3 responses:
 - Stopping running from God, to God:
 - “God told me to say this..Someone here is...”
 - Calls people to “go all in for God.”
 - Take steps to grow
 - “Bad days..kick tail...because your life has no depth” (25:50)
 - Assumes nominalism is ok, not ideal.
 - Allow God to use suffering in your ministry to others.
 - What happens to you qualifies you, not disqualify.

Sermon 4: Hide and Seek (God Encounters) – 34 min

<https://www.churchofthehighlands.com/media/message/hide-and-seek>

- Introduction:
 - “God doesn’t change who you are, he makes you who you always were supposed to be.” (04:00).
 - “This weeks lesson gets God’s attention more than anything else.”
- Text: John 4:23ff
 - “If you are seeking God, you need to know God is trying to find you.”
 - God is attracted to those whose hearts are for Him.”
 - MP: If you can’t find God, worship Him and He’ll find you.
 - Go all in –
 - 2 Chronicles – Jehoshaphat
 - Discouraged by no God encounters.
 - Had passion/courage because he was a worshipper (related to Asaph).
 - Same will be true in your life – Applies promises of military victory in OT to us today directly.
 - 1 Samuel 30 – David fighting a battle, when village is captured.
 - David did what I did, he says.
 - “In Jesus’ name” is about as much Jesus as you get in this one.
 - Paul and Silas in prison

- Worship helps us and everyone around us.
- God plays hide and seek with us. He plays the game and we really search. Then he will reveal Himself.
- Go all in
- Worship with heart, soul, and affection (cue background music):
 - Can't say you love God without serving him.
 - Worship with mind, to him, means thinking about God a lot.
 - Part of God you have discovered.