

# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ❧ Welcome Party – This Friday, 6pm at the Reneau's
  - ❧ 11730 e. 72<sup>nd</sup> St. Kansas City, MO 64133
- ❧ Small Group Workshop Week 2 – January 27
  - ❧ Ruth Outline, Key Verse, Key Theme
- ❧ War Room 530pm Snacks, 630pm Showing at MBT
  - ❧ Art and food will be available to raise support for the Tampa team. If you want to participate, please let Josh O'hora know.
- ❧ Cleaning the Church – Saturday, January 30 at 5pm
- ❧ Super Bowl – February 7, 5pm at the Reneau's
  - ❧ Bring a meal or side dish.
- ❧ Ladies Event – March 4, 6pm in the Café at MBT

# MISSION FOCUS RECAP



January 17, 2016

# OUR PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD IS UNDER ATTACK



- ❧ The world, the flesh and the Devil are all set on derailing your personal walk with God.
- ❧ Your 3 enemies subtly REPLACE your walk with God with poor substitutes.
- ❧ Their plan usually involves you still DOING what is considered “good things”. So you willingly allow what is perceivably a healthy alternative to walking with God.
- ❧ The way we combat this evil is with inspiration.
- ❧ We must be daily inspired by the Holy Spirit.

# ALL FOR LOVE



- ❧ John 21:15-19, 2 Corinthians 5:14, John 3:16
- ❧ What motivates our ministry service?
  - ❧ Is it because of the Great Commission and the Lost world? Is it simple obedience to God?
  - ❧ Or is it because “the love of Christ constraineth us”?
- ❧ Love motivated God.
- ❧ Love doesn't demand a change. It produces a change.



# MY MIND ON THE WORD



- œ Nehemiah 8:1-3, 2 Timothy 1:7, Isaiah 26:3, Philippians 2:5, 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- œ If we want victory in this Christian life, we must continue in the things we've learned from God's Word.
  - œ The only way we can continue is if we have begun already to know his Word. This is why we have opportunities like our Small Group Workshop.
- œ You send the Devil away by saying, "It is written."

# ALL THINGS FOR YOUR SAKE



- œ 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, Ephesians 2:1-7
- œ God allows things in my life, so I can receive God's grace.
- œ God's grace manifested in my life reveals my past and current needs for the Savior and subsequently God's unequalled kindness towards humanity.
- œ 2 things Satan runs away from: God's Word and Grace

# COMPELLING FEAR



- ❧ Luke 19:10-27, 2 Samuel 6:6-10
- ❧ The fear of the Lord compels us to draw near to him.
- ❧ Satan wants to pervert fear. His type of fear paralyzes people.
  - ❧ You might live a moral life, but you'll accomplish nothing for the Lord.

# THE PRIORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD



- œ Spiritual Persistence will bring Satanic Resistance.
- œ The Power of God on the People of God who have the Word of God.
- œ The Word of God does no good if it doesn't get to people in time.



# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ∞ Super Bowl – February 7, 5pm at the Reneau's
  - ∞ Bring a meal or side dish.
- ∞ Small Group Workshop Week 3 – February 10
  - ∞ Ruth Chapter 1 Study
- ∞ Conversational English – February 19
  - ∞ Brent and Breanna's House
- ∞ Ladies Event – March 4, 6pm in the Café at MBT

# GOSPEL SERIES



January 31, 2016

# FAITH MOVES US



- ∞ James 2:14-26, Ephesians 5:14, Romans 13:11-12  
1 Thessalonians 5:6, Matthew 9:18-19, Mark 5:22-24,  
Luke 8:40-42
- ∞ KEY THEME: Daily faith in God requires real  
identifiable movement.



# ASKING FAITH



∞ James 4:2-3

∞ Too often the only thing that gets in the way of us receiving God's blessing is that we're not asking.

# ACTING FAITH



- ⌘ Matthew 9:20-22, 29, Mark 5:25-34
- ⌘ Her life had been wrecked by her condition.
- ⌘ Do we see the devastating condition that we are in? Are we desperate for a change?

# LACKING FAITH



- ∞ Matthew 9:23-26, Mark 5:35-43
- ∞ Their lack of faith led to a cold, dead skeptical heart.
- ∞ Instead of trusting God for more, we doubt his interest in our affairs altogether.

# LAUGHED HIM TO SCORN



∞ Psalm 22:6-7, Isaiah 49:7, Isaiah 53:3

∞ They call him, “Master”, but instead of honoring him fully, once they hear him say something that sounds suspicious they immediately ridicule him.

∞ Sounds a lot like people today.

# TWO GROUPS



- œ Two people who had faith end up on their knees.
- œ Two groups who resist Christ's compassion are the disciples and the Ruler's family.
- œ Both come from faithless positions regarding Christ's sensitivity to us and his great power for us.

# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ∞ Super Bowl – TODAY, 5pm at the Reneau's
  - ∞ Bring a meal or side dish.
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# GOSPEL SERIES



February 7, 2016

# THE BLIND ARE HEALED



∞ Matthew 9:27-28, Isaiah 35:5-6, Mark 6:5-6, Hebrews 11:6, John 6:26-29

## ∞ KEY POINT #1

**Faith is the medium by which God's works are accomplished in man.**

∞ Other passages where Christ instructs people to not tell others about the miracle that occurred in their lives.  
Matthew 8:4, 12:16, 17:9, Mark 5:43, Luke 5:14, 8:56

## ∞ KEY POINT #2

**Too often we're quick to declare the great works of God (*that have happened in our lives*), yet we're not steadfast to live in the place of forgiveness.**



# THE BLIND ARE HEALED



- ∞ Matthew 12:22-24, John 6:15
- ∞ Our evangelism and ministry would do well if they came from places of personal and lasting faith, not simply from regurgitated sermons or of the most recent transpiring in our lives.

# A DEVIL IS CAST OUT



- œ Don't be surprised if when doing the work of the Lord you experience Character Assassination.
- œ More than your mouth, your testimony is your greatest asset.

# JESUS IS MOVED WITH COMPASSION



∞ The Multitude is:

- ∞ Fainting – Jesus wants to give them sustenance and rest.
- ∞ Scattered abroad – Jesus wants to gather them together.
- ∞ As Sheep having no Shepherd – Jesus wants to protect them.

∞ **KEY POINT #3**

**A ministry of compassion provides rest and renewal, is a place of protection and belonging and is led by a diligent overseer.**



# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ∞ Conversational English – February 19, 6pm
  - ∞ Brent and Breanna's House
- ∞ Small Group Workshop Week 4 – February 24
  - ∞ Ruth Chapter 2 Study
- ∞ Kyle Guenther is preaching in CAYA February 28
- ∞ Ladies Event – March 4, 6pm in the Café at MBT
- ∞ Kenny is preaching in CAYA March 13
- ∞ Tampa Trip – March 24-31
- ∞ Easter – March 27 – Invite your friends!

# OUR ROLE IN THE HARVEST



February 14, 2016

Happy Pagan Worship Valentine's Day

# COMPASSION FOR THE MULTITUDE



∞ Matthew 9:37-38, John 3:16-17, Romans 10:14-15

∞ KEY POINT #1

The hurting of this world should lead us back to the body. Not for comfort necessarily, but more so to report the pain, seek for reinforcement and reengage our family to make a difference in the mission.

# THE LORD OF THE HARVEST



- ∞ Luke 10:2
- ∞ Can we as a class collectively ask that God would bring more laborers to our field?
- ∞ The laborers need to be sent by God.
  - ∞ Sent one's are messengers with a message.
  - ∞ If you don't have a message, or know the message, then don't bet on being sent.
- ∞ The Harvest is essentially cutting down the crop and gathering it together.
- ∞ In both instances, the harvest is worked as a result of prayer.



# TO BE SENT...



- ❧ Matthew 7:4, Luke 9:57-62, Ephesians 5:14, Romans 13:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8
- ❧ The English phrase, “send forth” is the Greek word, “Ekballo”
  - ❧ Different from, “apostello”, which means, “sent one”
  - ❧ Means to cast out, pull out or bring forth
  - ❧ Over and over it’s usage in the scriptures has to do with the removal from a place of dwelling.
- ❧ **KEY POINT #2**  
**In order to enter into the work of the Lord, we must allow the Lord to remove us from our place of dwelling.**



# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ∞ Small Group Workshop Week 4 – February 24
  - ∞ Ruth Chapter 2 Study
- ∞ Calendar Meeting at the Reneau's Home – February 26, 630pm
- ∞ Kyle Guenther is preaching in CAYA February 28
- ∞ Ladies Event – March 4, 6pm in the Café at MBT
- ∞ Kenny is preaching in CAYA March 13
- ∞ Tampa Trip – March 24-31
- ∞ Easter – March 27 – Invite your friends!

# BRINGING SALVATION TO THOSE YOU LOVE



February 21, 2016

The week after the Pagan Holiday of Love.

# BODY / SPIRIT / SOUL



- ∞ Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26
- ∞ Matthew 9 speaks of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel.
  - ∞ Capable of healing our sicknesses.
- ∞ Mark 2 speaks of Jesus to a Roman audience.
  - ∞ Preaching to the hearts of man.
- ∞ Luke 5 speaks of Jesus to a Greek audience.
  - ∞ Teaching to man's intellect.

# BODY / SPIRIT / SOUL



- ❧ Christ addresses:
- ❧ The Body in Matthew 9 – Healing our broken bodies.
- ❧ The Spirit in Mark 2 – Healing our broken hearts.
- ❧ The Soul in Luke 5 – Healing our wrong thinking.

# “THEIR” FAITH



- ❧ Mark 2:3-5, Romans 10:14-15, 17, Psalm 66:5, Hebrews 11:1, Romans 5:1-5, 2 Peter 1:16-21
- ❧ They came to Jesus carrying their friend.
  - ❧ For our friends to experience a change in their lives they need to be in places where preaching, teaching and God's healing are occurring.
- ❧ They couldn't see Jesus because of the crowd.
  - ❧ Here is their crisis of faith.
  - ❧ They didn't let their negative “religious” experience deter them from being a part of what God was doing.

# BREAKTHROUGH!



∞ Hebrews 11:6, Mark 2:6-11

∞ KEY POINT #1

How you respond to your crisis of faith will always be a reflection of how you are viewing the Truth of God's Promised Word in your life.

∞ They opened up the roof.

∞ A crisis of faith, if followed through with renewed consecration will always lead to spiritual breakthrough.



# PRAYERFULLY GIVING FRIENDSHIPS TO THE LORD



- ❧ They let down their friend through the roof so Jesus could see him.
- ❧ This gesture pictures the demonstration of sacrifice and prayer unto the Lord.
- ❧ As if they were offering him unto the Lord and casting their burdens unto the Lord.

# SAW THEIR FAITH HEALED THIS MAN



- ∞ Matthew 9:8 – God’s Power had been given to man!
- ∞ Mark 2:12 – We’ve never seen anything like this!
- ∞ Luke 5:25-26 – What we saw today doesn’t make sense!
- ∞ The Greeks
  - ∞ Their intellectual framework was shattered.
- ∞ The Romans
  - ∞ Their earthly experiences were forever altered.
- ∞ The Jews
  - ∞ The physical presence of God was made a reality.



# WORK OF THE MINISTRY



- ∞ Small Groups are finishing Ruth 4 this week.
  - ∞ Beginning the book of Galatians in 2 weeks.
  - ∞ Get started now!
- ∞ Tampa Trip – March 24-31
- ∞ Easter – March 27 – Invite your friends!

# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



Are you a Pharisee?

# THE WORK OF THE PHARISEE'S



- ∞ Mark 7:1-9, 13, Matthew 23:1-4, 13,  
Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, Revelation 1:18, 3:7, 22:18,  
Luke 11:52 and Isaiah 22:21-22
- ∞ “The key of knowledge”
  - ∞ First mention of key – Judges 3:25
- ∞ A key reveals things that are being withheld or hidden.
- ∞ **KEY POINT**  
**Whereas the religious rulers kept the door shut, Jesus opened it.**

# JESUS' MODEL



- ❧ He fulfilled the Law.
  - ❧ Which presents a life of holiness for us to follow.
  - ❧ His holiness compelled people to LEAN INTO God.
- ❧ In leaning into God we rely upon the holiness of God himself.
- ❧ So, are you behaving as a Pharisee?





# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



Matthew the Publican

# HE LEFT ALL



- ∞ Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:13-14, James 4:8, Luke 5:27-32
- ∞ Jesus forced Matthew to make a decision by meeting him at his workplace.
- ∞ Matthew would have to do something radical in order to follow Jesus... like leaving everything behind.
- ∞ **KEY POINT #1**  
**If you want people to follow you, consider entering into their lives first.**

# ARE ANY SINNERS AT YOUR TABLE?



- œ Matthew 22:4-5, 8-10, Luke 14:12-13, Luke 5:30
- œ The Pharisee's talk with the disciples, not directly with Jesus.
- œ It's important for all disciplers to know that this is a satanic tactic that is designed to cause doubt or insecurity in the young believers life.
- œ Jesus answers on behalf of his disciples. And he'll do the same for you if you allow his Word into your life.
  - œ You don't have to rationalize your lifestyle. Let God provide answers for the lost.

# ALWAYS BE IN NEED



## ∞ KEY POINT #2

Rather than producing or modeling your own righteousness, instead turn to the righteousness that is found in Christ. In doing so, this recognizes and identifies your constant need for Jesus, rather than constantly trying to prove your standing with God or others.

## ∞ KEY POINT #3

The Christian should be an importer/exporter. But to be an exporter, the Christian must always begin and continually be in a place of importing the righteousness of God so that all of our exports are the remains and residue of the righteousness of Christ through us.

# THE PUBLICAN'S CHARACTER



- ∞ Luke 19:8, Matthew 18:17, Matthew 21:31-32, Luke 14:31
- ∞ The Pharisee's created a barrier.
- ∞ Jesus drew near, creating a door.

# DOWNPLAYING JESUS



- ❧ We should make a big deal out of Jesus with those we love.
- ❧ Too often, for sake of seeming relevant, we downplay what being a Christian really is about.
- ❧ Being a Christian should cost you your life.
- ❧ **KEY POINT 4**  
**It's not enough to know about Jesus. We must be personally invested in who he is, desiring to spend time with him. (Not recognizing facts about Jesus, but rather desiring to know his character in ways where implementation is possible.)**



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



## Reasons to Fast



# REST IN CHRIST



∞ Proverbs 3:5-7

- ∞ Rather than trusting in our own righteousness, God gave his Son so we could rest in Christ's righteousness and in *his* fulfilling of God's perfect law.
- ∞ The way to resting, is by dwelling with him. We dwell with God by the daily taking in of his Word and prayer.

# WHEN TO FAST



- œ Matthew 9:14-15, John 3:29, Acts 13:2-3
- œ Fasting happens when the bridegroom is taken away.
  - œ Sin separates us from God.
  - œ Fasting prioritizes listening to the Lord over feeding the flesh.
- œ Christ was taken away after he rose from the dead. But he (the person of Jesus) will also be absent during the tribulation.
  - œ During both of these times God's people (either the church, or the Tribulation saints) are instructed to fast.

# THOSE DAYS



- ❧ Mark 2:19-20
- ❧ Time of Tribulation
- ❧ The disciples are referred to as children of the bridechamber.
  - ❧ Or friends of the bridegroom. (Not the Bride)
  - ❧ During this time in the Gospel, we have not witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ so the church age has not yet begun.
- ❧ The O.T. saints, Tribulation saints (Believers outside the context of the church age) would be considered friends of the bridegroom.

# THE ABSENCE OF THE MESSIAH



∞ Matthew Henry said it like this, "When Christ shall leave them with their hearts full of sorrow, their hands full of work, and the world full of enmity and rage against them, *then shall they fast.*"

## ∞ KEY POINT #1

Fasting should elevate our desires to say, "Even so come quickly".

# FASTING INVOLVES MOURNING



- ❧ James 4:7-10
- ❧ In the O.T. the children of Israel mourned in anticipation of their Messiah. They mourned over their sin or horrible predicament.
- ❧ Now we mourn, not in hope of our salvation, knowing that Christ has already come to PROMISE us our security in him. We mourn for our suffering brothers and sisters. We mourn over sin that still lingers. We mourn to see Jesus once again.
- ❧ KEY POINT #2  
Jesus led his disciples celebrating the closeness of God with man whereas the Pharisee's disciples were still living in a place of mourning or sorrow.
- ❧ KEY POINT #3  
Fasting should not relieve us of our desperation for God but rather it should enlarge our longing to see him face to face.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



Fasting, Coverings and Containers

# FASTING REVIEWED



∞ Matthew 9:14-15

∞ KEY POINT #1

Fasting should elevate our desires to say, “Even so come quickly”.

∞ KEY POINT #2

Jesus led his disciples celebrating the closeness of God with man whereas the Pharisee’s disciples were still living in a place of mourning or sorrow.

∞ KEY POINT #3

Fasting should not relieve us of our desperation for God but rather it should enlarge our longing to see him face to face.



# COVERINGS AND CONTAINERS



- ∞ Luke 5:36-39, Genesis 3:21, 21:14-15, Galatians 4:21-26
- ∞ Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ∞ Adam and Eve were made garments out of animal skins.
  - ∞ An animal had to shed it's blood and die to cover their sin.
- ∞ Hagar, the bondwoman represented the Law.
  - ∞ The Old bottle = The Law (keeps us in bondage)
  - ∞ The Old bottle can not contain the New wine.

# OLD TATTERED GARMENTS



- ❧ 2 Corinthians 3:16 – Shall be taken away.
- ❧ When Christ is taken away, so will the veil.
- ❧ Instead of adding Christ to your spirituality, or adding onto the salvation you've found in Christ alone, let's begin simply enjoying who he is in our lives. And if there's anything you want to do, let's pray and fast longing to see him again. (Not what you can do for him, but rather, because you want to know him.)
- ❧ If this is your heart, believe me, you will want to work for your savior and Lord.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



## A Stagnant Spirit & A Stirred Spirit

# A PLACE OF SACRIFICE



- ❧ John 5:1-15, Nehemiah 3
- ❧ Bethesda = House of Mercy
- ❧ Sheep Gate – Where the Sheep were brought in for ceremonial sacrifice. (Mentioned first and last in Nehemiah 3)
- ❧ In a place of sacrifice, sick people were in abundance.
- ❧ The water was stirred by a messenger of God.
- ❧ People had to see the moving waters and step into the pool.
  - ❧ They had to act on what they saw.

# A PERSONAL STIRRING OF THE SCRIPTURES



∞ Mark 2:17, James 1:21-25, Deuteronomy 11:18,  
Ephesians 6:13-14

∞ KEY POINT #1

If you want healing in your life, it's going to take more than simply seeing the Word of God move. You need to personally experience the Word of God move ON you.

# HOW TO APPLY THE WORD?



⌘ Hebrews 11:6, John 5:8-15

⌘ Read the Word.

⌘ Meditate on the Word.

⌘ Have Faith to Obey the Word.

⌘ KEY POINT #2

Obedience is the external element of faith.





# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



Am I a Christian living by the Law?

# LAW vs. GRACE

☞ John 5:6-15



☞ Law-Based Christianity:

☞ Principle #1

You've become less gracious in the way you respond to people's hardships and any response that does come from your mouth is a calculated, measured response based upon Scriptures. But yet there is no compassion for the situation at hand.

☞ Principle #2

You care less for people and more for the law (Word of God). Instead of caring more for people and more the Word of God. The two don't have to be in competition. In fact, the one should build up the other.

☞ Principle #3

Your love for God's Word is not creating an increasing love and longing for the redemption of the lost.

# VIOLATIONS OF THE SABBATH



Sowing  
Plowing  
Reaping  
Binding sheaves  
Threshing  
Winnowing  
Selecting  
Grinding  
Sifting  
Kneading  
Baking  
Shearing wool  
Washing wool

Beating wool  
Dyeing wool Spinning  
Weaving  
Making two loops  
Weaving two threads  
Separating two threads  
Tying  
Untying  
Sewing stitches  
Tearing  
Trapping  
Slaughtering  
Flaying

Tanning  
Scraping hide  
Marking hides  
Cutting hide to shape  
Writing two or more letters  
Erasing two or more letters  
Building  
Demolishing  
Extinguishing a fire  
Kindling a fire  
Putting the finishing touch on an object  
Transporting an object between a private domain  
and the public domain, or for a distance of 4 cubits  
within the public domain.

# THE SABBATH



- œ Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-17, Isaiah 58, Jeremiah 17, Mark 3:4, Luke 13:14
- œ The Sabbath was meant to Hallow the Lord.  
It was intended to keep people from their own pursuits.  
And to give that day to the Lord.

# CHRIST THE LAW BREAKER?



- ❧ Christ's response was that, "my Father is working so I'm going to work."
- ❧ Christ subordinated himself to the Father.
- ❧ Christ was given authority by the Father.
- ❧ KEY THEME:  
Whatever we see the Lord doing, we should be found doing. If you can't find God in your ministry, then I'd consider rethinking your ministry.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



Verily, Verily

# SET PEOPLE FREE WITH THE SCRIPTURES



∞ Mark 2:27-28

∞ **KEY POINT #1**

The Bible can either be used to set people free (which requires personal engagement) or it can be used to be a merciless judge (which typically is defined by personal detachment).



# I CAN DO NOTHING OF MYSELF



- ❧ John 5:16-23
- ❧ Verily = Amen (So be it, it is true)
- ❧ 1<sup>st</sup> Verily, Verily – I can do nothing of myself.
- ❧ Our ability to serve God comes out of his love which has first been given to us.
- ❧ Through God's love we are invited into seeing how he works.
  - ❧ Thankfully God has does not withhold his love.
  - ❧ The Father's love to Jesus his Son is a model of transparency.

# I CAN DO NOTHING OF MYSELF



∞ John 5:22-23

∞ Jesus has been given all authority to judge.

∞ And so his first order of business is to... die for all of humanity.

∞ In doing so, he becomes the most honorable offering to God.

∞ So in Christ's judgment, not on mankind, but more so on sin, he most honorably became the way by which all men can be saved.

# I CAN DO NOTHING OF MYSELF



## ∞ KEY POINT #2

Don't confuse Christ's most honorable sacrifice as an inability for him to preside as judge over your eternity. His humility should not be misunderstood as an acceptance for your sin. Rather, his sacrifice, is the token of his grace that must be received in order to have lasting peace with God.

∞ If his sacrifice is not received, know that you will be judged fairly and righteously by his strong arm.

# LISTEN TO CHRIST AND BELIEVE IN THE FATHER



∞ John 5:24, Romans 10:14-17

∞ 2<sup>nd</sup> Verily, Verily – Hearing God's Word and Believing on the Father who sent Jesus is the only way to everlasting life.

∞ Am I listening to Jesus speak?

∞ Do I believe what I hear when he does speak?

# THE DEAD WILL HEAR AND BE RESURRECTED



- œ John 5:25-30, Ephesians 4:7-11, Isaiah 26:19, Romans 8:29, Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 1:5-6
- œ 3<sup>rd</sup> Verily, Verily – The Dead will hear the voice of the Son of God.
  - œ The promise of the resurrection is being given right here.
  - œ The coming of Christ was not just for the present and future generations, it was also a fulfilling of prophecy for those who trusted in God in the O.T.
- œ **KEY POINT #3**  
You and I need to be always watching and waiting for Christ to speak so that our dead lives would be awoken.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



5 Witnesses

# BEARING WITNESS OF ONESELF



- œ John 5:31-47, Matthew 18:16, John 8:13-14, 54  
Proverbs 27:2
- œ The context of, “Christ receiving honor” or of, “God the Father” receiving honor established Christ’s word usage.
  - œ In John 5:31-47, Christ is saying, I don’t need to be validated by man to know who I am in God.
  - œ To shamefully push for my own honor in this context would demean the power of God in my life.
- œ In John 8 Christ is comfortable advocating for himself as the Son, because his advocacy points people to knowing God the Father. The whole context of this passage is that of being known of God and a child of the Father.



# JOHN THE BAPTIST



- ❧ **What does a witness do?** Get this down:
- ❧ A valid witness verifies the truth and points others to the truth. They do not add to the truth or feel the need to make the truth more palpable. The witness simply acknowledges what they have seen in their own life. (In their own experience.)
- ❧ John 5:32-35, John 1:7-8, Luke 1:16-17, Matthew 3:5-8
- ❧ We can be a witness by burning brightly for Jesus. And by causing and prompting repentance and revival in your world.
- ❧ Simply put, John preached.

# JESUS' OWN WORKS



- ❧ John 5:36, James 1:21-25
- ❧ Don't talk about fruit, let your fruit talk for itself.
- ❧ We can be a witness by showcasing the works of Jesus in our lives.
- ❧ Simply put, let your life be on display.

# GOD THE FATHER



∞ John 5:37-38

∞ We can continue in our witness for Jesus despite a lack of reception or fanfare.

∞ Simply put, be sent by God.  
Live in that fact. That God Almighty SENT YOU!

# THE SCRIPTURES



- œ John 5:39-40
- œ Matthew Henry states, “It is possible for men to be very studious in the letter of the scripture, and yet to be strangers to the power and influence of it.”
- œ We can be a WITNESS by speaking the fulfilled words of prophecy.
- œ Simply put, know the book.

# MOSES



- ❧ John 5:46-47
- ❧ Moses and the Law proves our insufficiencies and points to Christ. It is our schoolmaster.
- ❧ We can be a witness by revealing the failure of mankind's righteousness.
- ❧ Simply put, we all fall short.
- ❧ My witness directly coincides with God's receiving of honor.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



From Being Burdensome to  
Bearing Burdens and Becoming a Blessing

# GOD WANTS TO BLESS HIS CHILDREN



∞ Matthew 12:1-2, Genesis 27:28, Deuteronomy 23:25

∞ Corn represents God's sustenance for man.

∞ KEY POINT #1

Make sure you're not standing in the way of God's blessing on other people's lives.



# GOD WANTS TO USE YOU TO BE A BLESSING



- œ Galatians 6:1, Romans 15:1, Job 4:3-4, Isaiah 35:4
- œ If you see a problem, look for a way to be a blessing, not the spiritual police.
- œ Instead of making accusations, look to be a restorer.

# GOD BLESSED US WITH HIS WORD



∞ Matthew 12:3, 1 Peter 3:15

∞ Jesus answered their accusation with, “Have you not read?”

∞ KEY POINT #2

Spirituality cannot be attained by being in a close proximity to other people who are spiritual. It requires you to personally identify with the Word of God and to personally realize your responsibilities towards what it says.

# GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH THE TESTIMONY OF HIS SAINTS



- œ Hebrews 12:1, Matthew 22:41-46, 1 Chronicles 17:11-15  
Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Ezekiel 34:23-24
- œ When the Jews are questioning the validity and blamelessness of Jesus' ministry, he uses David as his example.
- œ KEY POINT #3  
Instead of looking for ways to prove your validity in ministry, use the validity of God's Word and his established leaders.

# GOD BLESSES AND SUSTAINS US AS WE SACRIFICE OUR LIVES UNTO HIM



❧ Leviticus 24:5-9

❧ The shewbread was a continual offering unto the Lord.

❧ It was holy and to be set out every Sabbath.

❧ Only the priests were to eat the bread.

❧ As we consider the example of David's men and that of Christ's disciples, God shows us that in giving up everything, he will fill you up completely and provide your every need.

❧ God is not a god who withholds from his children.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



## Blessings for the Broke and Broken

# CHOOSE TO BE A BLESSING DESPITE YOUR FEARS AND UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS



- ❧ Matthew 12:1-5, 1 Samuel 21:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, Romans 5:6-8
- ❧ In the minds of the Pharisee's, providing mercy to the disciples would have been counterproductive, heretical and not beneficial to the disciples building up of faith.
- ❧ How are you feeding someone in your life who is need?
  - ❧ Ahimelech clearly had questions and fears concerning David's strange appearance and the context of his arrival.
  - ❧ But Ahimelech blessed David even with his questions.

# WE MUST COMPLETELY ABANDON SELF



## ∞ KEY POINT #1

We are not called to bless those who, “have it all together”. We are called to bless those that have nothing.

∞ People in need are usually messy and their lives can be considered reckless.





# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



God Provides for his Children.

# COMPARISON #1



- œ Matthew 12:1-5, 13:38, 16:24-25, 2 Samuel 21:1-10  
Psalm 14:1, 2 Samuel 11:1-2, Deuteronomy 1:6  
1 Kings 18:21, 1 Peter 3:15
- œ In the O.T. David's men went to the House of God for refreshing.
- œ In the N.T. Jesus' followers were found being refreshed in the field.
  - œ The field is a picture of the world.
- œ Find your field – Be refreshed in the work of the Lord.

# COMPARISON #2



- œ John 6:31-33, 50-51, Hebrews 5:12, 1 Timothy 5:18  
Psalm 24:1, Matthew 6:25-34, 10:16, Romans 8:36
- œ In the O.T. David's men ate the prepared shewbread.
  - œ Bread is seen as nourishment given by God in the Bible.
  - œ David didn't deserve this bread and yet it was given to him nonetheless.
- œ In the N.T. Jesus' followers ate the corn which they had to pluck.
  - œ Corn is a picture of God's provision by the fatness of the earth.
  - œ Joseph provides corn for his brothers when the world is going through a famine. In this story he represented the fatness of Egypt.

# COMPARISON #3



- ∞ Romans 8:37-39, 34, 1 John 2:1
- ∞ In the O.T. David's makes provisions for his men while running from Saul.
  - ∞ He goes to the Priest for help.
    - ∞ Now we are the Priesthood.
  - ∞ David has to prove his holiness to Ahimelech.
- ∞ In the N.T. Christ makes provision for his men and then confronts the Pharisee's.
  - ∞ Christ uses the resources of the world to provide for his disciples.
  - ∞ While David proves his holiness, the disciples prove their helplessness.



# THE MEN OF THE LAW & THE MAN OF MERCY & GRACE



God's Mission of Restoration  
will have Opposition.

# JESUS WALKED INTO A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT



- ❧ Matthew 12:9-10, John 1:5, Matthew 5:14-16, John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:10-14, Acts 11:26
- ❧ The Light is needed most in oppositional strongholds.
- ❧ KEY POINT  
When you find yourself in a difficult situation, rather than retreating, move closer to the place of worship.
- ❧ Christ's goal was to:
  - ❧ First, worship openly.
  - ❧ Second, minister and be used of God openly.



# JESUS WAS PICKING A FIGHT



- ❧ Matthew 12:11-14, Matthew 3:12
- ❧ Jesus knew there was a cause!
- ❧ Jesus asks them two basic questions.
  - ❧ What man among you, if his sheep were to fall in a hole would leave him there all day?
    - ❧ Jesus is pointing to their need to act as Shepherds.
  - ❧ How much more value is a man than a sheep?
    - ❧ Jesus is directing them to a place of love rather than the law.

# THE WITHERED HAND



- œ Genesis 3:22, Matthew 23:15, Luke 23:31, Isaiah 55:1, John 7:37, Matthew 11:28-30
- œ The hand is seen in Scripture as the activator or agency by which someone can accomplish his/her tasks.
- œ The Greek word used for, “withered” is also translated as a dryness or in comparison of the land to the water.
  - œ In that his withered hand would have appeared shriveled up and dried out.