

## Week 8 – No More Standing on The Sidelines

### Notes:

As we've talked about the past few weeks, we don't want to work our way through these sessions/go through the motions and at the end, say that sure was (or wasn't) a good study and move on. We want there to be **change** for each of us and to have an impact in our homes, our church and in society.

Make it personal. **Week 1** – No More Hiding Behind the Past: What from YOUR past are you laying down and giving completely to God?

**Week 2** – No More Holding Back: Is there something that is and has been holding you back from being who God has called you to be? From **stepping out in faith** and doing whatever God has called you to do? Is it fear? Selfishness (my time)? Lack of Confidence?

**Week 3** – No More Weak Leadership: As a man, what is my role and responsibility in my home, church, community and God's Kingdom?

**Week 4** – No More Going Through the Motions: What is priority in your life and what defines you? Is it work/career, money, hobbies, status, etc.? When people look at you, what is the first thing they see or think of? How do you want to be seen or thought of?

- For a lot of years I was content to only go through the motions and my life didn't have much 'true' meaning. I certainly didn't have an **impact** in my church and community. It was only when I started making an attempt to put God first in everything that I saw **true change** and **meaning** in my life (Christ's Hands).

**Week 5** – No More Compromising Your Integrity: Last week we examined the dangers of going through the motions. Why is going through the motions such an easy pattern to fall into if we're not diligent?

Perhaps because it is easy and comfortable. Everything becomes a routine that has an expected/calculated outcome. Everything is less stressful when '**someone else**' does it. (<https://www.allworship.com/elses-obituary/>)

**Week 6** – No More Sifting Through the Rubble: In Week 5 we talked about integrity, what it is and why it is so important not only in our personal lives, but also the impact that it has on those around us extending from our family to the members of our church, community and beyond.

**Week 7** – No More Half Stepping: Last week we saw that God can build a new foundation on top of sin and brokenness and looked at Peter as an example. Even through his failures and denial of Christ, he went on to have an even greater ministry after he was restored than he ever did before. Of course, we all have failed and in order to be redeemed, we must admit and confront our failures before healing can occur and healing is needed before Christ can truly use us.

For Week 7, Dr. Evans tell us that to be a man of great **impact** and **spiritual significance**, you need to **go all in. Effort. Consistency. Dedication. Hard work. Diligence.** These are the markers of a kingdom man who lives with no more excuses.

We have talked previously about **going all in and being totally committed**. Too risky? Too demanding? (**Pg. 114 – The Chicken and the Pig – Involvement vs. Commitment**)

**Week 8** – No More Standing on The Sidelines: We have seen that God has a plan for men. We don't belong on the sidelines. This week we're going to look at how we can take part in everything God intended for us to do by fully engaging on the field of our lives and having a positive impact by being men of faith, men of justice and men of perseverance.

**You've made it to the final week. What has been the most impactful lesson you've learned from this study?**

- That there is no in between; for me to truly be used by God, I must completely surrender to Him and put Him first in all things. He MUST be my priority.
- Even through my failures, I can be restored and have an impact on those around me (we looked at John 21: 15-17 and how Jesus restored Peter).

**What's one reason men become content on the sidelines of life?**

- I think for me, probably for most, it is just easier to let 'someone else' do it as Jerry shared with us (<https://www.allworship.com/elses-obituary/>). One line that stands out to me: "Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, there was one name on everyone's list: Let Someone Else do it."
- It is 'easy' to give a little and not step into a situation that is a bit too risky or demanding (Pg. 114 – The Chicken and the Pig – Involvement vs. Commitment). We give the appearance that we are all in, when we really are just standing on the sidelines.

**From the Watch Section on page 125, did any of the statements stand out to you?**

- **No more excuses. No more living an ordinary life. No more sitting on the sidelines.**
  - We have spent 8 weeks (I do want to mention that we truly only scratched the surface of this study and could have stretched it out for many more weeks. With it being a summer study, I wanted to finish in time to start our fall study with David which I know we are all looking forward to.)...so, we have spent 8 weeks on this study and at the beginning of each week, we talk about it NOT being just another study and moving on, that there should be change and for us to have an impact in our homes, our church and society. At this point, the question is simply, "Are you all in and dedicated to no more excuses, no more living an ordinary life, no more sitting on the sidelines?" Think and pray about what this looks like for you!

**Pg. 126 – MAN UP**

'For this purpose also I labor, **striving according to His power**, which mightily works within me.' Colossians 1:29

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph: Strive means "diligently pursue an outcome." It involves hard work. Persistence. Effort. Consistency. And a whole lot of just plain determination. In this passage Paul tells us that his striving was done in the power of Christ, which strongly worked in him. Through His strength, Paul was able to accomplish more than he ever would have on his own.
- Is there anything in your life, personal or spiritual, that you are 'striving' to do or achieve? Are you seeking Christ and His strength & power in your efforts?

**When have you had to admit that you didn't have the strength necessary to complete a task? Who came to your aide?**

- It seems that most of the time when I commit to taking on a role or task in the church, especially when it is out of my comfort zone, the devil attacks me and gives me every reason why I can't or shouldn't. I have found that in those moments, if I pray for the Lord's will and to be filled with His spirit, He gives me the strength and confidence to go forward.

**What has Christ empowered you to do that you never could have done on your own?**

- A current example for me would be teaching this class. I remember when I was younger and very content to stand on the sidelines, I would look at 'someone else' in the church, those teaching classes, serving as deacons, elders, etc. and think to myself, I would never or could never do any of that. Fast forward to now and I'm so thankful for our church and the men that have encouraged me, I have done all of the things that I always said

that I would/could not do! I can't express how much I have grown from stepping out, being willing and seeking His strength. Christ has definitely empowered me!

### **How do we honor Jesus and the sacrifice He made on our behalf when we take hold of the power He gives us, get off the sidelines, and enter the game?**

- I think it shows the faith and trust we have in Him. He made the ultimate sacrifice for us – we should be willing to step out for Him and do whatever He has called us to do. Study His word, pray more, be a witness and tell others about Him (The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20), seek a role in the church, etc.
- When we think about commitment, surrender, dedication and all of the things we should embrace in our walk with Christ, does it encourage you when you see those traits in other men in the church or are they 'someone else' to you (I'm glad they are doing that so I don't have to)?

#### **In what areas of your life is God calling you to get into the game?**

- Is this the most important question we have seen in this study??? As men, we like to say things like, 'rubber meets the road', 'boots on the ground'...so, have you prayed for the Lord to show you His will and what He wants you to do to help build His kingdom? Do you already know what areas of your life God is calling you to get into the game?

### **Why do we settle for looking the part? How could the working of Christ's kingdom power make an impact in your spheres of influence?**

- We have talked about the differences between being content to be on the team and striving to be in the game. It is easy to wear the uniform, but it is a lot more challenging and rewarding to be involved and get some grass stains.

### **Legacies are built on small acts of greatness stacked on top of one another. What's one small act of greatness you can do this week for the kingdom of God?**

- On page 134 in Bible Study 2, there is a great lesson entitled 'Leaders Leave Legacies'.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: A man of impact is a man who takes spiritual leadership. I didn't say it's a man who wants spiritual leadership. I didn't say it's a man who talks about spiritual leadership. I didn't even say it's a man who studies the subject of spiritual leadership.

A man of impact is a man who takes spiritual leadership. He does it. He doesn't wait around for 'someone else' to appoint him, ask him, anoint him, or nudge him. He just does it. He leads and he leads well.

...When was the last time you led a Bible study with your family? When was the last time you got on your knees with your kids? When was the last time you reviewed the Sunday sermon or a passage of Scripture with your wife, coworkers, parents or friends and talked about what they learned or what they didn't understand?

Men, you don't have to be a preacher to take spiritual leadership. You don't need a seminary degree to pray with somebody. **You just need to do it.**

### **Are you the man God has called you to be?**

Sometimes circumstances in life make it difficult for men to be all God wants them to be. In this study, we have been urged and encouraged to stop looking at circumstances as excuses and instead to see them as challenges and opportunities for success. Exploring the examples of men throughout the Bible, we have been challenged to lay down our excuses, stop compromising and to fight to be a man of character and commitment. Despite our setbacks, failures, and pressures, we can still find purpose, meaning and direction in life!