



Series: There is Nothing Greater Than Walking with Jesus

Lesson 8: “Jesus is the Ultimate Treasure”

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** How much of this world do people really care about? Why do you think we keep ourselves so isolated? How much do we know about the work of Christ’s servants outside of our own church?

Transition: I wonder how powerful our celebration and joy would be if we were more aware of the power of God collectively imparting wisdom across the earth.

Bottom Line: There is nothing greater than possessing the wisdom of our Lord Jesus. The church is a collective family effort to be Christ to the world and to encourage one another.

LESSON PLAN

Question: How many church congregations are you praying for? How many ministers are you praying for? How many workers for Christ do you know outside of Colorado Springs? How many outside of Colorado? I wonder why we have become so isolated as a family, the family of God.

As we finish the letter to the Colossians we might discover a little about why the early church was so successful. The answer may just lie in their love for one another, even those they had not met, but still cared deeply about and prayed for, and communicated with.

Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. What instructions does Paul give them concerning a devotion to prayer?

Watchful originally meant to go without sleep. Later it came to mean giving attention to God’s truth, being mindful of what He has said and why He said it to us. This was a command that was continually to be obeyed out of our faith in God’s instructions. Therefore, my prayers are going to have a dedicated focus to doing God’s will. The prayers also were filled with thankfulness, gratitude toward God for all He has revealed to us.

Question: If this is God’s instruction on prayer, and it is, then how can we be more thankful and watchful in our prayers?



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2. What does Paul ask the Colossian Christians to specifically pray for him?

Notice that he is in chains because he has been preaching Christ. Paul is in Rome in a rented house, but with a guard most likely chained to him at all times. This went on for 2 years at which time Paul writes Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. These are known as the prison epistles or letter because of the place of their writing. In this case we are blessed greatly because of Paul’s imprisonment that gave him the time to write, preach and pray fervently. People would come and go with information about all the churches that had been planted and the ministry taking place or the problems arising that needed an apostle to address them.

Read Acts 28:16-31

3. What powerful ministry do you see that helps explain Paul’s appeal for specific prayer when writing to the Colossians?

Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles, but now he is able to call together his fellow Jews to preach the gospel to them. He is preaching the gospel of Christ from the Old Testament prophecies and converted some of them. People were allowed to come and go from this house for 2 years to hear Paul preach the truth.

Question: What do you think most people would do if they were arrested and held for 2 years for preaching Christ? What do you think you would do if held against your will, away from your family and friends, for being faithful to the Lord?

4. What does Paul instruct the Christians about their actions toward outsiders, those who do not yet believe in Christ?

Situation: Let’s say a non-believer is sitting with you at Starbucks. You know them but have never talked about your faith. They ask you how you could doubt evolution and sell out to the archaic idea of a supreme God who has always existed. What would you share to help them? How would you make sure those words were full of grace and seasoned with salt?



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Read Colossians 4:7-18

5. Why is Paul sending Tychicus to the Colossian Christians?
6. Isn't it interesting that Paul is imprisoned yet he wants to encourage the Christians in Colossae? What can we learn about godly ministry from Paul?

The church doesn't exist in a bubble! Paul sees the world-wide body of Christ and ministers to it wherever needed and whenever and however he can.)

Question: Do you have anyone you take time to encourage in the faith and share your ministry with?

Application Time: (*Pass our blank paper*) Write a letter of encouragement to one of our missionaries or someone you know in the ministry of Christ as a leader, teacher, minister, Elder, etc. Send the letter to them or email the letter to them. They will be blessed by hearing from the family of God. Everyone needs encouragement and it is an important part of the church family to provide it. If Paul can think of others while being imprisoned, surely we can think of others while living a life of luxury in this country and time God has blessed to live in.

Missionaries:

- **Tanzania** – Scott and Annelle Price cmfscottprice@earthlink.net
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- **Azerbaijan** – Rahim and Zema Agayev rahim@mgmaz.org
- **Thailand** – Joni and Nangsar Morse jonimorse@gmail.com

**Note: If you are using this lesson at another church, find out your missionaries, elders, teachers, leaders and staff email addresses.*

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?