

Wednesday, June 23

Your lifestyle attracts pre-Christians through the power, peace, and purpose of Christ that they see within you and are longing to experience. Paul knew living a godly life, although important, was not enough. Paul did not hesitate to verbally “testify to the gospel of God’s grace” and “proclaim to you the whole will of God’ to give pre-Christians the reason for his quality of life. Your Christian walk backs up your talk—and your talk explains your walk.

Acts 20:17-38

- From today’s verses, what about Paul’s life would have attracted the Ephesians and prepared them for the message he shares? What was his message (20:20-21 and 24)?
- When and with whom is it most intimidating to share your faith in Christ?

Thursday, June 24

When Jesus calls you to be an example of life transformation to others, it doesn’t mean you have to have all the answers or be perfect. It’s not about performance but about living in a relationship with Christ in which you know you are loved and accepted unconditionally. All Jesus asks is for your heart (the center of your being) to be sold out to him, and he takes it from there. Out of a heart focused on God come godly actions. Even when you make mistakes your intentional relationship with Christ serves as a demonstration of God’s unconditional love and acceptance, and that attracts others to God.

Luke 6:43-45 Matthew 7:15-23

- According to today’s verses, what are the by-products of a true follower of Jesus?
- What aspects of your Christian lifestyle clearly back up what you say and believe? In what areas could you improve?

Friday, June 25

God’s economy is to let nothing go to waste. God uses every part of your life experience to benefit you in character development and to give hope to others. Because you have walked in troubling times and experienced God’s presence and power, you can understand and come alongside someone in a similar situation and point him or her to the hope that comes from Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:3-14

- What was Paul’s purpose in sharing his trials with the Corinthians (1:9-11)?
- With whom could you give hope by sharing your story?

Saturday, June 26

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul urged followers of Christ to live together as family and to develop their personal relationships in such a way that pre-Christians would be attracted to the Christian approach to life. By living with a totally new attitude, to which the world is unaccustomed, followers of Jesus demonstrate the character of God.

Ephesians 4:17—5:2

- List at least five behaviors Paul named that are to characterize a follower of Christ.
- Choose one behavior on your list that you will work on changing this week? What is it?