

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Psalm 143:8

Sunday, March 26, 2017

A Worthy Life

Things worthy of ...a really good homemade biscuit should not have margarine spread over it, but something worthy, real butter! A good chicken fried steak, no package gravy, you have to make it from scratch. The brand new zero turn mower, none of that cheap recycled oil, this thing is worthy of synthetic oil. The horses you use all the time, they get the best feed, fresh hay, clean water. The poor old donkey has to eat cubes with the cows and drink pond water. The old work boots get kicked off in the garage but the Alligator Luchese boots get a prominent place in the closet!

Ephesians 4

1 As a prisoner for the lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling (invitation) **you have received.** (God has invited you into a relationship with him)...you would think he would say, 'don't miss church, pray a lot, give lots of money', but he goes right into how to treat other people...
2 Be completely humble God humbled himself for you, when Jesus died on the cross. He put your needs ahead of his own, be humble to people who don't deserve it, cause you didn't deserve it either!

Pride is the opposite of humility –

and gentle; This word kind of bothers the man side of me, if any of you speak at my funeral, I hope you don't say, "Steve was very...gentle." What this means is you don't use the power you have over other people all the time ... just because you're the boss you don't have to be bossy.

be patient, This is tough but think about it like this...how many times have you run from God and he waited...how many times have you said I'll never do it again, and you did it again, and God waited...have you ever been in the car and it's getting late and you're waiting on the girls of the house and you want to

honk the horn, knowing she will just stay in longer... how many times has God wanted to honk the horn on you?

Bearing with one another (people who are unbearable) ***in love***. When things become unbearable, you remember how much God has been bearing with you.

This principle is illustrated all through the New Testament...

Matthew 5:23 “***Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.***”

1 John 2: 9 ***Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.***

John 13 34 “***A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.***”

Luke 10:30 ***In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,*** (they must have groaned when Jesus started in with another story) 17 mile walk with a 3000 ft. descent, lots of rocks and caves when he was attacked by robbers. ***They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.*** Being left meant certain death if nobody helps ***31 A priest happened to be going down the same road,*** (the priest was the usually very educated, very wealthy and very respected at this time, he was ceremonially clean, he could not touch blood or a dead person, he could not touch blood or a dead persons, ***and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.*** (for some reason he SAW the man and just went by on the other side, for some reason in his mind, he justified a reason not to stop, maybe he thought it was God’s will, a common thought during this day, it was punishment for something the guy did, so he should not interfere with God’s will.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. Levites were also wealthy and prestigious because of their background and name (again the Levite saw the guy and had reasons why he should not get involved).

33 But a Samaritan, (part Jewish part Babylonian and a lot of other things – Kind of like us) the Jews would go out of their way one extra day to not travel through Samaria ***as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him*** (instead of thinking of all the reasons not to

stop, he took pity, maybe it was because he knew what it was like to be neglected

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, (dangerous) pouring on oil and wine (expensive. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

The whole time Jesus is talking the people are saying when is he gonna get to the neighbor part?

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" or who acted neighborly or loved in the way he would want to be loved.

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Everyone knew the answer.

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Jesus was saying take the things you're great at and use them to be great in someone's life.

The priest and the Levite chose not to be great even though they were great at some things in their lives. The big challenge...we all have opportunities to be great. Don't we justify why we should not be great in someone else's life... "if I do it for them, I'll have to do it for everyone."

The question that GREAT people ask, most of the time in your mind "what can I do to help" not how can I solve all their problems (cause you'll talk yourself out of that)...just simply what can I do to help.

Back to Ephesians 4

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (in the middle of relationships and problems remember God is over ALL, he is in control of everything.

Remember back a year ago, if you told people you were going to church regularly, they would have laughed. Five years ago, people wouldn't believe what has happened in your life.

When we lose sight of the fact that God has called us into a relationship with him, things go south in our lives pretty quick.

When we are not humble (pride, gentle, patient, and bearing with another) we are not living worthy of the invitation...