



2014 FECA Spiritual Formation Conference
March 14-15, 2014

FOLLOWING JESUS . . . THE LIFE YOU WERE MADE FOR!

Speaker: Dr. Keith J. Matthews

Session #1 *Catching the Vision*

The ministry of Jesus in the gospels gives us a new vision of life, but what is his vision for humanity and what does it mean for our lives, especially in the “ordinary and mundane” situations of daily living? How is it that many believers of Jesus miss this vision, and are left only with the hope of heaven?

Key Word: LOOK

Key Texts: Deuteronomy 6: 4-6; Leviticus 19:1, 2; 9-18; Mark 1:14-17; Luke 4: 42-43

We all live at the mercy of our ideas.
Dallas Willard

The reason people don't grow in their spiritual life is because they give too big a place in life to indifferent things.
John Joseph Surin

- A universal model of transformation: V-I-M

VISION

INTENTION

MEANS

- Seeing the big picture . . . the Christian Story of God and Humanity- Three key words.

We are . . . _____ -- _____ -- _____

- Three Visions . . . or three gospels-

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What you present as Gospel will determine your Discipleship.
Dallas Willard



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Session #2 *Seeking . . . a Prerequisite!*

God remains hidden to the casual inquirer. Jer. 29: 13 says that, “you shall seek me and find me, *when you search* for me with all your heart.” Critical to our finding God is our own willingness to “seek” for him. God wants to be known, and He longs to reveal himself to those who want him. In this session we will look to a powerful scriptural model to help us learn how to seek Him.

Key Word- SEEK

Key Texts- Mt. 13: 44-46; 11: 28-30; Jer. 29: 11-13; Lk. 11: 29-31; I Ki. 10: 1-13

Christianity has not so much been tried and found wanting, but has been found difficult and left untried.

G. K. Chesterton

Truths to explore . . .

1. Our ability/desire to seek God, comes from our vision.
2. We are not passive in the process!

Exploring Biblical Attributes of a Seeker- Luke 11: 29-31; I Kings 10: 1-13

v.1 SHE CAME TO _____ HIM WITH _____.

v. 2 SHE _____ WITH HIM ABOUT ALL THAT WAS ON HER HEART.
SHE DIDN'T HOLD BACK!

vv. 3-7 SHE _____ FROM HIM.

vv. 8, 9; 10-12 SHE _____ BACK TO HIM (PRAISE/SACRIFICE)

v. 13b SHE RETURNS TO _____ IT ON TO HER PEOPLE.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33



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Session #3 *Our Mandate and Model*

Matthew 28: 18-20 and Acts 2 provide powerful clarity of the Church's calling and it's action toward informing our lives today. We will re-examine some familiar passages for living as Disciples and see if there is more to learn in our current times.

Key Word- ENTER

Key Texts- John 3: 5; Matthew 18: 1-4; 5: 20; 28: 18-20; Acts 2:41-47

- The Mandate & the Model of the Church - Matthew 28: 18-20; Acts 2: 41-47
 - A. Invite and Enfold them into the "Trinitarian Fellowship" of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Or, simply put . . . _____!
 - B. Teach them to obey all that I have commanded.
Or, simply put . . . _____!
- Living life in the Kingdom of God is not a _____ process. EFFORT, not EARNING is the knowledge we embrace.

We are invited by Jesus to ENTER . . .

Entering the Kingdom of God

1. John 3: 3, 5 " . . . no one can see/enter the kingdom of God unless you are born from above.
2. Matthew 18: 1-4 " . . . unless you change and become like little children you will NEVER enter the Kingdom of heaven."
3. Matthew 5:20 " . . . unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will CERTAINLY NOT enter the kingdom of heaven."



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Session #4 *Barriers to Life with Jesus*

Living life in the Kingdom of God, while it is our true calling, still has its challenges. In this session we will give thoughtful attention to the barriers or blockades to this life in Jesus. The key is honesty and truthfulness, and ultimately our willingness to re-arrange our lives in overcoming these barriers.

Key Word: LIVE

Key Texts: John 10:10; James 1: 2-4; Titus 2: 11-15

Nine obstacles to living life in God's Kingdom-

1. Our own _____. Active and Passive
2. The constant demand of _____ and _____.
3. Our inability to manage _____.
4. Our radical addiction to _____ and _____.
5. Faulty _____.
6. Our fear of Critical _____.
7. Our misunderstanding of _____.

Spiritual disciplines are a means intended to engage a radical personal encounter with God.

8. Our expectation for _____.

Discipleship has often centered on giving Biblical answers while Spiritual Formation begins with asking questions, questions about ourselves, God and our world.

9. Due to guilt and shame from a variety of life sources we lack of confidence that God *really* will _____ to us.



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Session #5 *Growth Towards Maturity*

Explicitly or implicitly we are told that “maturity” is the goal of the Christian life. But what is “maturity”? Is it a destination or a direction? Or, do we ever get there? In this session we will define maturity and give hope for progress. Maturity in Christ is within reach!

Key Word: GROW

Key Text: Colossians 1:28, 29; James 1: 2-4

“Over the course of more than twenty years in the ministry, I have become convinced that one of the most important things any of us can do as a Christian is to grow up before we grow old.” John Wimber

Most of us would acknowledge that maturity is the goal, but how does that occur and what does it look like?

Spiritual maturity for the disciple/apprentice of Jesus is measured by “competence.” In other words, are spiritual activities really integrated into my daily life. Listed below is a questionnaire to test your spiritual maturity, based on “Competence.”

THE SUPER SEVEN

(Rate from 1-10)

- _____ 1. Rate your basic Confidence and Faith in God in all things.
- _____ 2. Rate your life Witness as a fact (not words).
- _____ 3. Rate your life in the area of confident, expectant Prayer.
- _____ 4. Rate your life as a conduit of God’s Power.
- _____ 5. Rate your level of Freedom from worry, anxiety, and fear.
- _____ 6. Rate your level of Mercy and Compassion for those in pain or suffering injustice.
- _____ 7. Rate your committed Participation and Service to the body of Christ.