

How We Pass On the Faith

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1Thess 2:1-12

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Synopsis:

In our last sermon from the *Discipleship Essentials* book, from the chapter “Sharing the Wealth,” we learn how to pass on the faith, that is, how to make disciples.

Here’s the secret:

It’s not about what we *say*

It’s not even about what we *do*

It’s all about how we’re *present* with other people

In Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, we learn how Paul, Silas, and Timothy were successful through being with those to whom they preached. This not only worked for Paul, it works in all human relationships.

I.

Beware the Huckster!

1Thess 2:5 “We never came with words of flattery”

Are you a huckster?

-used car salesman

-comes up to you like friend, but you know he’s not

-knows the goal = sell you a car

-knows what to do = pressure you

-being doesn’t jibe with goal and doing

*He’s a huckser

The way we are with people betrays what we say and do

Being versus Doing:

Refocus statement, such trouble with *being*, not *doing*

My trouble: think *doing* is more important

E.g. first year of marriage = *doing* my studies

Barb wanted not my *doing* but my *being* with her

“I said I *loved* her, but I was present in *neglecting* her”
*I was a huckster! My being betrayed what I said and did

Tone with People

E.g. Dog trainer: tone of voice is primary with dogs
Trainer back in DC with Skyler
Tone of voice betrays who you are with a dog

POINT:

It's our 'come from' that makes all the difference
If I love you, I can mess up and do OK
If I don't, goals and technique won't help
Let's look at Paul's 'come from'

II.

Paul's Being with Thessalonians

1Thess 2:1 “You yourselves know . . . that our coming was not in vain”

Paul's History with the Thessalonians

OPEN BIBLES

READ Acts 16:11-15 (50 AD)

1. Paul, Silas, Timothy come to Macedonia, beat and jailed in Philippi
2. They travel 100 miles west to Thessalonica

READ Acts 17:1-10

3. Actions while in Thessalonica (2-3 months)
 - goes to synagogue = not good
 - goes to Gentiles = good
 - supports self in leather trade
 - friends with Jason
 - Jews stir up crowds, claim Paul is anti-Emperor
 - mob runs the three out of town

READ 1Thess 2:17-3:6

4. The three travel to Berea, then Athens
5. Paul wants to know how Thess are doing
6. Sends Timothy/Silas back
7. Timothy/Silas return to Corinth to report
8. Paul writes the first letter of NT (50 AD)

The letter is all about Paul's 'come from'
His being before his doing and goals
Let's take a look at Paul's 'come from'

III.

How We Can Be Different with People

1Thess 2:7 "But we were gentle among you"

Structure of the passage: Look at Bible

Verse 1 = GOAL of our time with you (READ)

not in vain = significant

Would you like your time with people to be significant?
Would we like our time with people in the community to be significant?

Verse 2 = DO what we *did* (READ)

Courage to declare good news with boldness

Would you like to be able to share good news with courage?

Verses 3-12 Here's WHY the GOAL and DOING worked

Series of three contrasts: All about being

1. READ 2:3-4

NOT = 3

Deceptive

Impure

Tricking

BUT = 4

God approved

God pleased

Here's the first way to be with people:

- forget deception, impure motives, trickery
- tell the truth, have honest conversations

- seek God's approval, pleasure
 - E.g. Breakthrough training
 - people were honest with me
 - we avoid honesty because we think it's harder
- *With whom do you need to be honest?

2. READ 2:5-8

NOT = 5-7a (Cynic philosopher)

- Flattering
- Greed
- People praise
- Demands

BUT = 8

- Gentle like a nurse
- Share selves
- Loved you

Here's the second way to be with people:

- forget flattery, greed, praise, demands
- share self and love others
 - E.g. Jeff right now
 - worried we won't go missional
 - 10-12 years left to be significant
 - depends on how I am with you
- *With whom do you need to share yourself?

3. READ 2:9-12

NOT = 9

- Burden for support

BUT = 10-12

- Pure, upright, blameless
- Like a father with a vision

Here's the third way to be with people:

- don't burden people
- have a vision for people
 - E.g. My son = vision for him to walk with Jesus

My daughter = vision for her to study and teach
Church =

Jesus in heart

Bible in hands

Feet out the door

*Who needs you to support their vision?

Conclusion:

How do we pass on the faith?

How do we make disciples?

Answer is simple.

It depends upon how we're present with people.