
1 Thessalonians 2:9 For you remember our labor and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the gospel of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behavior to you believers;

1 Thessalonians 2:11 ...for you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you

1 Thessalonians 2:12 ... to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

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Serving

Sowing Seeds, Growing Gardens- part 5

October 8, 2017

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 As you are going, make disciples of every nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age."

Here's what we've studied.

- ◆ Care
- ◆ Words
- ◆ Kindness
- ◆ Friends

Matthew 20:26 (RSV) It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

Matthew 20:28 ... even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve ...

... and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (RSV) For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Treated like a servant

Luke 17:7 (RSV) "Will any one of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at table'?"

⁸ Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink'?"

⁹ Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded?

¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Cost of serving

John 12:24 (RSV) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Promise of serving

Galatians 6:9 (RSV) And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Titus 3:14 (RSV) And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

The apostle Paul, a case study in sowing seeds

1 Thessalonians 2:1 (RSV) For you yourselves know, brethren, that our visit to you was not in vain;

² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our

God to declare to you the gospel of God in the face of great opposition.

1 Thessalonians 2:3 (RSV) For our appeal does not spring from error or uncleanness, nor is it made with guile; ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 For we never used either words of flattery, as you know, or a cloak for greed, as God is witness;

1 Thessalonians 2:6... nor did we seek glory from men, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

"Affectionately desirous" –

"Dear" to us –
