



Week Two

March 9, 2011

Intro

Life is busy...really busy... and it gets noisy too! So noisy and so busy that we often do not hear the things we really need to hear. When things get quiet, when they slow down, certain things can be seen and heard. When we see and hear things in the quiet they affect our actions, our hearts and our lives.

With the "Shh: Stuff is Happening" series we are going to be talking about those things that tend to be quieter. Quiet things aren't always boring, timid or wimpy... sometimes they can be the most powerful things in our lives.

So, we're gonna talk about the quiet things and how to make them part of our lives. The quieter things we will be focusing on are the "Quieter Virtues." These quieter virtues are discernment, innocence, authenticity, modesty, reverence, contentment and generosity. We will talking about these quieter virtues each week and how they can run wild in our lives.

Source

This series is using a book by Gregory Spencer called "Awakening the Quieter Virtues" as a major source of inspiration and guidance.

TONIGHT'S QUIET VIRTUE: *Discernment*

Scripture

• Phil. 1

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

¹¹ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so

we may obey it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Discussion

1. From last week... What are the quieter virtues? Are they really quiet? Why are they called quiet?

2. What is discernment? How would you describe it? How can we get better at discerning between right and wrong and death and life and fake and real?

2. What things in our world is "fake" but are promoted as "real?" What things in our world are "real" but are promoted as being "fake?"

3. How can you tell the difference between what is real and what is fake?

4. There were several things from pop culture (music, movie, tv show) that Dan presented as examples of fake stuff that is treated as real. Can you think of other fake things that we encounter in our daily lives that society treats as real?

5. There were four options for what we do when we have discerned between life and death, real and fake. They were:

- Choose death and love it
- Choose death and hate it
- Choose life and hate it
- Choose life and love it

What do each of these things mean? What should we strive for?

6. What does attentiveness have to do with discernment?

7. How can you get better at discerning life in the world around us? What is one practical thing you could do?