

Sermon Notes

Ten Steps - John 10:27

May 2, 2021

I. Introduction

- a. what's your center... anything other than Jesus... not experience abundant life... if anything other than Jesus is our center, we need conversion...
Jer 9:6... "live in world of deception... in deception, they refuse to know Me..."
John 10:10... "I have come to bring life... and life more abundantly..."
Rom 15:18... "dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done..."
- b. life change only comes when you have a revelation of Christ... can't live off faith and revelation of others... you must taste and see... pray...
Psa 34:8... "taste and see that the Lord is good... blessed is man who trusts..."
ra'a... *consider, perceive; give attention to; learn about; look intently at...*
Matt 13:53-58... "did not do many miracles because of their unbelief..."
Luke 8:11-15... "seed is Word... seed on rock are those who, when they hear, receive Word with joy... having no root, they believe for awhile and fall away..."

II. Ten Steps

- a. must understand life change brings conflict... Jesus brings conflict...
Matt 2:1-12... "Jesus was born... Herod deeply disturbed, as was everyone in Jerusalem... being warned not to go back to Herod, they returned another way..."
Luke 12:49-53... "father divided against son... mother against daughter..."
John 15:18-25... "if the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first..."
- b. when change comes... instinctively put up barriers... Jesus always brings initial conflict, because we know He brings change... don't want to change... even if change is good... worry to peace... fear to faith... bondage to freedom...
Acts 6,7... "we heard Jesus will change the customs Moses handed down..."
Rom 8:15... "did not receive spirit of slavery to fall back into fear..."
Gal 5:1... "Christ has set us free... don't submit again to a yoke of slavery..."

O God, make me pure, but not yet. Augustine
- c. ever get lost on a trip... when you figure it out, there's conflict... got to turn around, go back, get on right road... initial trouble saves us from immense amount of problems later... conflict Jesus brings is ultimately good...
John 10:27... "My sheep hear My voice, I know them... they follow Me..."
Rom 8:28... "God causes everything to work together for good..."
2Tim 3:16 GSV... "all scripture inspired by God... shows us right path... shows us where we got off the path... shows us how to get back on the path... shows us how to stay on the path... always reminding us we're righteous..."
- d. when we were lost and needed change... God initiated contact... not easy, sin was in way... God had to bear our sins... cross was the price He paid for us...
Rom 5:8... "God proves His love... still sinners... Christ died for us..."
2Cor 5:17-21... "He became sin... we become righteousness of God..."
1John 4:19... "love is... not that we loved God, but that He first loved us..."

- e. conflict, contact, and now crisis... before you can have life change... you will face a crisis... you will be called upon to choose... you have to say yes or no... this is no longer information, but transformation... you must decide...
Deut 30:19... "today I have given you the choice between life and death... between blessings and curses... I call on heaven and earth to witness your choice..."
Josh 24:15... "choose today whom you will worship..."
1Kings 18... "how long... if Lord is God, follow Him... if Baal is, follow him..."
Phil 4:4-9... "do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me..."

No use trying to kid yourself about this matter of surrender. You do or you don't. Your question marks will never be straightened out into exclamation points of certainty and revelation unless you pass from the question to the quest. There comes a moment in life when to get further light you must decide something. The light you have will turn to darkness unless it ends in decision. Light turns to Life thru decision. E. Stanley Jones

- f. how does life change happen... give you 10 steps over next several weeks that may help... remember... even these steps need to have Christ as the center...
- g. Consider Your Ways
do your ways correspond with God's ways... how do you make your decisions... who do you go to first... what is your center... God or world... some use God as a last resort... *well, nothing else worked, I guess I'll try God...*
1Chron 16:11... "seek the Lord and His strength... seek His face always..."
Prov 3:5-6... "trust in the Lord... lean not on your own understanding..."
Luke 10:38-42... "worried about many things... one thing is necessary..."
Gal 5:25... "let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives..."
Col 2:8... "don't let anyone capture with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking of this world and not from Christ..."
Jam 1:5... "if anyone lacks wisdom... let him ask God... who gives generously..."
- h. not easy to consider our ways... three things will try to stop you...
Be Tempted to Defend Behavior
emotional attachments to old ways... often think with emotions... rationalize wrongs... make excuses... truth brings change, not defending bad behavior...
Gen 4:1-16... "*where is your brother Abel... am I my brother's guardian...*"
Luke 15:11-32... "all these years I've slaved... never disobeyed... got nothing..."
Justify by Actions of Others
everyone does it is sure recipe for disaster... does not bring about life change... brings consequences... don't follow conduct of others, but Christ...
2Cor 10:12... "*we don't dare classify or compare ourselves with others...*"
Gal 6:4... "examine your own work... do not compare yourself with others..."
Confess Lesser Sins
man grades sins, God doesn't... confess minor sins, but major sins remain hidden... confess losing temper, not abusing spouse... confess impatience, not infidelity... confess worry, not stealing... all to try and keep self at the center and God at the circumference...
Matt 23:23... "tithe mint, dill... neglect more important... justice, mercy, faith..."
Jam 2:10... "whoever keeps entire law... stumbles at one... guilty of breaking all..."
- i. first step to life change is consider your ways... requires complete honesty... take time in prayer... allow HS to lead and guide you to any changes... pray...
John 8:32... "then you will know the truth... and the truth will set you free..."

NEXT WEEK: Change Your Direction - Connect with Christ - Consent to Surrender

The Way of Guidance

Psa 16:7-11... *I will bless the Lord who guides me...*

We come now to the **question of guidance**. The Way is the way of the God-guided life. Usually, people are guided by one or more of these things: by what others do... by chance happenings... by superstitious beliefs... by impulses... sometimes by conscience... **occasionally by God**.

But the one who is on the Way is on the way of God. God has direction for that person's life. **How does God guide?** Obviously, God must guide us in a way that will develop spontaneity in us. The **development of character**, rather than direction in this, that, and the other matter, must be God's primary purpose.

God will guide us, but not override us. That fact should make us use with caution the method of sitting down with pencil and a blank sheet of paper to write down the instructions dictated by God for the day.

Suppose a parent were to dictate to the child minutely everything to do during the day. The child would be stunted under that regime. The parent must guide in such a manner, and to such a degree, that autonomous character, **capable of making right decisions for itself**, is produced. God does the same. When our daughter was married, I wrote her, *I hope I shall never be in the way and never out of the way.*

And yet, having said that, I hasten to add that the **guidance of God** is more intimate than God standing by in case of need. It is **willing cooperation**. God gives us autonomy, and then we deliberately choose to cooperate with God as the managing director. God has the first, middle, and last word; and we are glad to have it so, for **God's will is our highest interest**.

We are inwardly made to understand and do the orders of God. And when we do, we are free. Free because we are fulfilled. Guidance then is guidance into our highest development and achievement. It is guidance into liberty, for **when we do the will of God, we are free**. The will of God is always our will at its best.

E. Stanley Jones
The Way Devotional - Week 41

Sermon Study

Ten Steps - John 10:27 - May 2, 2021

1. What's your **center**? Is there any way to know for sure? Read **Jer 9:6... John 10:10... Rom 15:18**. How do we get life change? Read **Psa 34:8... Matt 13:53-58... Luke 8:11-15**.
2. Jesus brings **conflict**. Explain. Read **Matt 2:1-2... Luke 12:49-53... John 15:18-25**. How has He brought conflict in **your life**? Why is the conflict ultimately for good? Read **Rom 8:28** and **2Tim 3:16**.
3. Who **initiated contact**... God or us? Read **Rom 5:8... 2Cor 5:17-21... 1John 4:19**. Why is that **important**?
4. Read **Deut 30:19... Josh 24:15... 1Kings 18:20-40... Phil 4:4-9**. Why is it important that you have a choice? Read the **quote** from **E. Stanley Jones**. How does it describe you and your decisions?
5. Why is it important to **consider our ways** if we want to change? Read **1Chron 16:11... Prov 3:5-6... Luke 10:38-42... Gal 5:25... Col 2:8... Jam 1:5**. How well do your ways match up with God's?
6. What **prevents us** from considering our ways? Read **Gen 4:1-16** and **Luke 15:11-32**. **2Cor 10:12** and **Gal 6:4**. **Matt 23:23** and **Jam 2:10**. Which one of those areas **affects you** most?

No use trying to kid yourself about this matter of surrender. You do or you don't. Your question marks will never be straightened out into exclamation points of certainty and revelation unless you pass from the question to the quest. There comes a moment in life when to get further light you must decide something. The light you have will turn to darkness unless it ends in decision. Light turns to Life thru decision. E. Stanley Jones