

Day 22 - Leading by Example

Over the next week, we will think and pray about ways we can join God in the places He is already working as a guide and mentor. We have all followed Jesus for different lengths of time and through different life experiences. Wherever we are on our journey, there are others who would benefit from the hard-fought wisdom we have gained along the way.

What are lessons you've learned on your faith journey that you could share with others? What moments of God's faithfulness to you would encourage those around you?

Our focus scripture for today is Titus 2:7

⁷ ... Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching."

This verse is from a letter written by Paul to a follower of Jesus named Titus. Titus was helping guide the churches in Crete through specific issues they were struggling with. In the verses preceding verse 7, Paul gives Titus practical instructions for the Cretan believers about how they are to live. Some of these instructions include exercising self-control, living wisely, being filled with love and patience, teaching what is good, and being pure. In verse 7, Paul reminds Titus if he is to be an effective and qualified guide, he first must have a life worth imitating. Titus is encouraged to do good work from a place of integrity and dignity. This verse is a reminder to us that as we begin to move into guiding and mentoring others, we must look at our own lives first. No one is or will be perfect. God does not expect us to live a life of perfection before we can invest in others. But, as we see in this verse, he does ask us to continue to strive toward a life that looks like Jesus - an imitable life marked by faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Pause to ask God to illuminate any areas of your life where you are not walking in the way of Jesus. Ask Him to show you practical steps to take in order to partner with Him to see transformation happen in these areas.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” think about what God revealed to you during the pause. Is there one step you can take to begin your transformation in this area? Share this step with a trusted friend or guide today so they can pray and encourage you in this area

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, listen to the words of Paul to Titus in chapter 2 verses 11-14 and let them encourage you today:

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, eager to do good works."

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.