



MAY HIS FORCE
DEVOS TO GO EPISODE 2016
GO WITH YOU

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LOVE EACH OTHER

John 13:34-35 & Mark 12:30-31

Jesus gave us a new commandment to live after, which is to love people in our surroundings. This can sound like one of the easiest things in the world to do, but to me, personally, it can be really difficult sometimes.

When someone treats me badly it is very difficult to show that person love. When this happens look back at John 13:34-35 to get reminded of the message of the new commandment we have been given.

“Love your neighbor as yourself”(Mark 12:31), talks about the golden rule. The golden rule is “treat others the way you want to be treated in return”. This is a very good thing to live after, because there will be situations where you are going to get upset or hurt. When these situations occur, think back to the message in John 13:34-35 and in Mark 12:30-31 and ask yourself: “what would Jesus do?”

HANNA LINGMAN

PERFECT TIMING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Have you ever told a really funny joke but it was at the wrong time or around people who didn't understand the joke? This probably made the joke not as funny as it would have been if it had been told

at a proper time and place. Timing is essential in everything and sometimes waiting for the right

time is hard to do. The phrase “Timing is everything” is the key to what Solomon tells us in these verses. He explains that God has his timing perfect for your life. There is a selected time and place for everything in the kingdom of God, and everything is chosen at a specific time for a reason even if it is just to fail. It sets something else he has planned in your life. He says “God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity to be in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” This verse is one of my favorites because it tells us that even if you don't really know what God is doing in your life or how everything will be okay in the situation you are in at that point, he has a plan and has everything perfectly timed in your life even if it doesn't seem like it is.

KACEY LINAMEN

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:25-37

Jesus gives a powerful image of the mercy and compassion He has commissioned all of humanity to through totally giving Himself for the forgiveness of our sins. The “Good Samaritan” in the parable is not concerned with the disruption of his own plans traveling on the road, as the priest was, but instead chose to stop and minister to the man left for dead. He freely gave of his time and resources to nurse the man back to health and take him to an inn. He even gave what is essentially a “blank check” to the innkeeper to pay for whatever the man needed. Are we so generous, even to those we don’t know? Who is a “neighbor” to us, as Jesus describes, that we may be called to serve?

JOEY MARSALA

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Is it ever difficult to express your love for Christ in public? I’m sure most people can relate to these questions, with going to school everyday and being surrounded by a non Christian majority.

Romans 1:16 says “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”

This passage really reassures us as Christians that there is really nothing to be ashamed of when living for Jesus. I know with personal experience, it can be scary to talk about your faith with your non-Christian friends, so I challenge everyone to remember this verse when you are faced with an opportunity to share your faith. Don’t worry about what people may judge you for, but remember that if you don’t share your faith with them, they may never hear about Jesus in the future.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to share our faith with others. Help us to not be worried or ashamed with speaking out and telling others about Jesus. Help us to remember that if we stand behind in the crowd and don’t speak up, some people may never hear about Jesus in the future. In Jesus’ name, amen.

BEN LOCKWOOD

TRUE COLORS

2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

Read verse one again, and then draw a tree and label it “churches of Macedonia.” Then draw a bucket or a watering can dumping water on the tree, and label it “God’s grace.”

Read verse two and three. Then draw a strong wind that shakes the tree, and label the wind “affliction.”

When a strong wind of trials and afflictions came and showed the churches’ “true colors,” joy and generosity shown through. The only way that was possible was because they were grounded in the Lord. Their first priority was always to God.

What is your first and top priority? When strong winds of trial and affliction come, what will your “true colors” be?

If we bathe in God’s grace and ground ourselves in him, we can have hope and be like the joyful churches of Macedonia.

LIVE FOR HIM

Colossians 3:17

After reading this verse, think about all of the things you have done at camp. Everything that we did here at camp was for God and we were very thankful that we got to do those things. Over the next week, keep this verse in mind and try to live your life at home just like you lived at camp. I promise that if you do everything for the Lord, He will bless you and keep you as His sons and daughters.

JOY JOY

Psalm 16:9

By definition Joy means: a state of mind and an orientation of the heart. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It is something or someone that provides a source of happiness.

By definition Happiness means: a state of well-being and contentment, a pleasurable or satisfying experience.

In this verse David's heart was glad because he had found the secret to joy. True joy is far deeper than happiness; we can feel joy in spite of our deepest troubles. Happiness is temporary because it is based on external circumstances, but joy is lasting because it is based on God's presence within us.

Try to stay away from basing your life on circumstances, but rather base it on God.

Can you reflect on a time in your life when you've experienced both happiness and joy?

KATIE ANDALORA

THE SPIRIT AWAKENS

Ephesians 2:1-10

When I first read this passage, it really hit me. I have often felt like a "dead soul" walking around this world while just going through the motions. But God has called us to be much more than that. His Spirit awakens our dead souls and leads us to be the person He has created us to be. We were once children of wrath, but by grace through faith we have been made children of God.

What are some things that have made you feel like a "dead soul" inside?

How can you turn from those things and recognize the Holy Spirit's awakening in your life?

As you step out in faith each day, strive to remember who God is and what He has done for you because that's when you can fully become who you were created to be.

BEN SOFFEL

TURN TO JESUS

Luke 24: 39-43

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “so you’re the messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself-and us, while you’re at it!” But the other criminal protested, “don’t you fear God even when you are dying”? We deserve to die for our evil deeds but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said “Jesus, remember me when you come for your kingdom.” And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Sometimes, we feel like we have screwed up so much that we don’t deserve to seek Gods help. Never believe that lie. Back in the time period in which Jesus lived, people were crucified if they had committed the worst crimes imaginable, whether it was blasphemy, killing, adultery, stealing, you name it. The man who defended Jesus was most likely guilty of one of these crimes. But he was able to confess his sin and admit he was wrong, and was saved, even though he was hanging on a cross for all the wrong he had done. Regardless of the worlds view of certain sins, God doesn’t view any sin as being any bigger or worse than another. So if you ever feel like you’re stuck in a certain sin and you feel like you can’t turn to God and that you are too far away from God to come back, remember this man and know that you can’t change your past, but you can change your future if you just let the God in that’s knocking at your door. So now I ask you, what’s holding you back from turning to Jesus?

JONMICHAEL DEANGELO

LIVING SACRIFICES

Romans 12:1-8

As members of the church, we must strive to play our individual part in God’s kingdom. Each and every person has their own place in the body of the church, and we are called by God to find and serve our role. To use your body here on Earth, and the gifts you have been blessed with, as a living sacrifice in fulfilling this role pleases God beyond belief. Yet in order to live out this calling, we must take steps to discover the fruits God’s grace has bestowed upon us. Each and every person has differing abilities, for some it is communication, others it is healing, or perhaps teaching. Look back over the past week at camp, as well as the previous school year, and pray that God will make clear the spiritual gifts he has bestowed upon you. I then challenge you to dedicate your time and gifts not to benefit yourself, but focus on utilizing them for God’s service in His church and world. Our role is to be faithful and to seek ways to serve others with what Christ has given us.

BECKETT HAGLUND

LOOK TO JESUS

Matthew 14:22-33

This story is crazy, right?? The impossible happens! Jesus walks on top of the water... And then Peter walks on water too! The first lesson of this story is that when we work with God and trust in him, anything is possible.

But the story doesn't end there.
Read verses 29-30 again.

Peter starts to walk on the water but then he begins to sink. When does Peter start to sink? Peter sinks when he takes his eyes off of Jesus—it's when he sees the wind and the waves and he gets distracted.

There are a lot of distractions in life. There are a lot of things that cause us to take our eyes off of Jesus. What are some of the distractions in your life that cause you to sink like Peter? Take a minute and pray that God would remove those distractions (and it may be hard) so that you may follow Jesus with your whole heart.

But the story still isn't over!! Read verses 30-31 again. Immediately Jesus catches and saves Peter from falling in the water. Even when we fall, even when we get distracted, even when we take our eyes off of Jesus he is always (ALWAYS) right there to catch us and save us.

It is so, so good to know that when we need him Jesus is right there for us because he loves us so stinkin' much. Take this day to reflect and remember how much God loves you.

RACHEL JOHNSON

HE IS WITH YOU

Psalms 139

This passage holds a strong importance because it depicts how involved God is in our lives. He knows everything about us and he wants to know everything about us. It reminds us that God is always there for us, no matter where we go, or even if we try to flee his presence. He is so fond of each and every one of us. Even if we try to hide in the darkness, he will know where we are because the darkness is not dark to him. He created all of us and has loved us before we were even born. We need to strive to have that mindset. To love God and one another unconditionally, even when they try to flee our presence. When was a time in your life when you felt God's presence? How does it feel knowing that God is always there for us through every triumph and defeat?

GRAHAM SOFFEL

BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12: 12-26

God uses all of us to fulfill certain tasks He made us to do. But, we don't do them alone. When Paul writes, he talks about the Body and it's many parts. He's right that the human body can't work correctly if one part isn't working. This is also the same for us Christians. We all are called to do what God wants us to do. If we ignore God, then everyone else is affected and the Body won't work as smooth. But, if we all do what God calls us to do, then the entire Body of Christianity works smoothly. What do you think God has called you to do?

GARRETT TALKINGTON

I SURRENDER ALL

Genesis 22

In the minds and hearts of campers today, this is what I hear:

-“I really struggle with not knowing who I am.”

-“I hang out with people who look like they have it all together so I can feel better about myself.”

-“I do so many things to cover up who I really am, just to earn the acceptance of my friends.”

-“It's a challenge to keep up with the status quo (and popularity) around me.”

-“I feel like a hypocrite when I try to live for God but love something else.”

-“There's so much hurt and pain, what do I do?”

The lives we live are so short. Can you remember starting going through elementary school or starting middle school? High School? Getting your license? Making more and more of your own decisions on your own?

Life is unpredictable. Many times there are surprises. Such as: Pain, suffering, heartache, neglect, betrayal, jealousy, temptation...etc.

And the bottom line is we don't know when it's going to end, so it's time to surrender now.

The Bible tells us that if we will lose our life and surrender it to the Lord, we will gain something even more valuable...a relationship with him and eternal life.

* Read Genesis 22

Often times we try to control our own lives. We try to control what friends we have, our money, or our future.

But imagine being Abraham. Step into the sandals of someone who lived thousands of years ago, and got it right. Abraham obeyed God, left his family behind, and traveled over 50-60 miles without any clear direction from a GPS or Google Maps. But Abraham was FAITHFUL.

When we surrender everything we have to God, he will, in turn bless us.

What do you need to surrender to obey or grow closer to God?

ELLIE WEIHMANN

IT WAS GOOD

Read Genesis 1: 3-27

In reading this there is a beautiful significance in the wording. For all of the things created from light to the earth, water and animals of the sea and land and sky, God simply said “let there be” and it was so. However, when it came time to create man kind, God took his time and “made” us and didn’t simple say “let there be”. God created each and every one of us in his image, and he knows every hair on our heads and every wrinkle of our body. At the end of creating every thing, he looked at all he made and said “it was good”.

HE IS OUR COMFORT

Psalm 147:3

I go to this verse when I’m feeling upset or discouraged. Anytime that you are feeling low, know that God will always be there to guide you through it!

You can try this prayer:
“Lord please give me comfort and give me the strength to carry on. Please show me that I will be okay. And give me the courage to fully trust in you. Amen.”

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Jeremiah 29:11

We can't be "lukewarm" Christians, meaning, if we want to follow Him we have to live for Him in everything that we do-even praying!

Think about the way that you talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, then think about how you talk to your friends. You talk about different things, right? You don't want to talk to God like He is a stranger. When you pray, you want to talk to God like He is your best friend, a king, a parent and someone that you look up to all in one. God is strong enough to answer our prayers and He cares enough to work in our lives and others on our behalf. God is powerful and He cares for us in the times when we need Him (which is all the time). He is holy, and forgiving of our sins.

God is with you all the time. He always has and always will. He knows what you're thinking and your story. If you ever feel like there is a time when you are alone, and no one else understands-talk to God. Pray for Him to take away your concerns, fears or whatever you're feeling at the time. He wants you to give Him your burdens.

Invite a friend to pray with you! Your friend will be able to tell what your relationship with God is like, and what we believe about Him by listening to you.

BE A LIGHT

Matthew 6:22-23

These little verses hold a lot of meaning. Light, although small, has a VERY BIG impact in the environment around us-a single candle can fill an entire room, it gives us day and night, and it's a wonderful guide when we're lost in darkness in a place where darkness surrounds us in this world.

HE IS OUR STRENGTH

Habakkak 3:19

These verses are special to me. This last year I had to fight cancer. It was hard. It was scary. But God was with me all the way, giving me strength and hope. As you face hard things in your life God will be with you. Have faith, believe in God and you will be saved.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for being there for me. Help me to always trust in You. Amen.

GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE

Hebrews 12:28-29 &
Deuteronomy 4:23-24

Listen to "Consuming Fire" by Third Day

Our God is loving and merciful, yet He is often referred to as a consuming fire that utterly destroys. God's holiness is the reason for His being a consuming fire, and this holiness burns up anything that is unholy. The holiness of God is the part of His nature that most separates Him from sinful man. Only the righteous (a person who is morally right) can withstand the consuming fire of God's wrath against sin. Sin offends God's holiness. No amount of our own righteousness is enough to withstand the consuming fire of God. Thankfully, God gave us the righteousness we need by sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. God traded us His perfect righteousness for our imperfect sins. Jesus took the blame, so that those who belong to Him would not have to suffer. We don't have to fear the consuming fire of God's wrath if the purifying blood of Christ covers us.

Reflect:

What sins do you need God's forgiveness for?
What does being righteous mean to you?
How can you become more like God?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for loving me so much that you sent your son to die for my sins. Thank you for trading your perfect righteousness for my imperfect sins. You are a consuming fire that burns up everything that is unholy. Please forgive me whenever I am unholy and cleanse my soul. Help me to be more like you. Amen.