

12-3-23 Facilitator – A Gospel Mission and Vision, Acts 20, Tim Rice

1. **Launchers:**

- Why is it critical to train the next generation?
- Why is the need for training and the responsibility to train others such a blessing?

2. **Worship God For The Benefits of Those Who Have Trained YOU.**

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Proverbs 22:6. Bless God for the wonder of training.

3. **Sermon Reflection:**

ALL IN THE FAMILY

- How are Gospel-relationships at the core of the church's mission?

THE CORROSION OF SELF-INTEREST

- What are the key threats to the health of a church?

THE RHYTHM OF HOPE

- What can give us hope in an unsettling time of transition?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer:**

1. Worship the LORD, who is our Shepherd. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He watches over us to lead, feed, and defend us as His very own and that no one can snatch us from His hand.
2. How have you loved your own comfort or desires more than you have loved others, even in the Church? Confess your pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you for your selfishness and that He would change your heart.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for being the LORD our Shepherd. Thank Him for shedding His blood to spare us from death and hell, and for giving His Spirit to us to change our heart from selfishness to real love.
4. Who do you know that does not care well for others? Pray for them, asking the Lord to care for them and open their eyes — and even that He would use you to help them to grow to be a blessing to others.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your generosity of heart, especially for those under your care. Ask the Spirit to grow you in wisdom and love for others in keeping with how He has loved you by His Grace.

5. **Our Mission - Un-Trained to Being Trained to Training Others**

- Where do you need training?
- Where have you been trained?
- Who is someone that you can train?

Sermon Quotes:

Tim Keller: "The 'already' of the kingdom means that the church is the community now of kingdom power. It therefore is capable of mightily transforming its community. Evangelism that adds "daily' to the number of those being saved" (Acts 2:47) is possible! Loving fellowship which "*destroyed...the dividing wall of hostility*" between different races and classes is possible! But the "not yet" of sin means Jesus has not yet presented his bride, the church "*as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish*" (Eph.5:27) . We must not then be harshly critical of imperfect congregations, nor jump impatiently from church to church over perceived blemishes. Error will never be completely eradicated from the church. The 'not yet' means to avoid [a demanding spirit] to seek to bring about a perfect church today.

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Ephesians 2:17 [Jesus] came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near... 18 through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

We believe that this church does not exist only for us, but for our friends, neighbors, and associates who do not know Christ. Being a small, intimate group would be more comfortable, but our mission calls us to leave our comfort behind to serve those who are without Christ.

Teddy Roosevelt: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man *who is actually in the arena*, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, [and] great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Luke 16:10 One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much