



## **Session #2: A Jacked up Pastor in Need of the Gospel – Chan Kilgore**

We need to be desperately dependent upon the power of gospel to continually transform us more deeply into the image of Christ.

### **SEVEN LESSONS BEING LEARNED BY A JACKED UP PASTOR**

#### **LESSON #1: See that the work of grace be thoroughly worked out in your own souls.**

It is of utmost importance that we as Christians are thoroughly gripped by the gospel ourselves. The very gospel we have been called to preach to the ends of the earth must first penetrate to the depth of our own souls.

"It should be one of our first cares that we ourselves be saved men. True and genuine piety is necessary as the first indispensable requisite; whatever 'call' a man may pretend to have, if he has not been called to holiness, he certainly has not been called to the ministry."  
(Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, p.9)

#### **IMPLICATION: *The gospel we so fervently preached to others would be lost on us.***

"If we will be divines only in tongue and title, and have not the Divine image upon our souls, nor give up ourselves to the Divine honour and will, no wonder if we be separated from the Divine presence, and denied the fruition of God for ever. Believe it, sirs, God is no respecter of persons: he saveth not men for their coats or callings; a holy calling will not save an unholy man...Many a preacher is now in hell, who hath a hundred times called upon his hearers to use the utmost care and diligence to escape." (Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*, p. 72-73, 53)

#### **LESSON #2: See to it that you guard the flame of gospel passion burning brightly in your life.**

John Stott, author and pastor, compares the cross to a blazing bonfire. If we want the flame in our hearts to be kept alive, we have to keep coming back to the source. "The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled," he writes, "but we have to get near enough to it for its sparks to fall on us." (*What Christ Thinks of the Church*)

#### **IMPLICATION: *Your church will lose its gospel passion.***

- **[Revelation 2.1-5]**

"When your minds are in a holy, heavenly frame, your people are likely to partake of the fruits of it. Your prayers, and praises, and doctrines will be sweet and heavenly to them. They will likely feel when you have been much with God: that which is most on your hearts, is likely to be most in their ears. I confess I must speak it by lamentable experience, that I publish to my flock the distempers of my own soul. When I let my heart grow cold, my preaching is cold; and when it is confused, my preaching is confused; and so I can oft observe also in the best of my hearers, that when I have grown cold in preaching, they have grown cold too; and the next prayers which I have heard from them have been like preaching." (Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*, p. 61)

#### **How do we keep the flame of gospel passion burning brightly in the drizzle of everyday life?**



### **LESSON #3: See to it that you preach the gospel to yourself**

Jerry Bridges in his book, *The Discipline of Grace*, calls us to preach the gospel to ourselves.

C.J. Mahaney in his book, *The Cross Centered Life*, writes, "Reminding ourselves of the gospel is the most important daily habit we can establish. If the gospel is the most vital news in the world, and if salvation by grace is the defining truth of our existence, we should create ways to immerse ourselves in these truths every day. No days off." (p.54)

#### **Some suggestions for preaching the gospel to yourself:**

- Memorize the gospel.
- Pray the gospel.
- Sing the gospel.
- Remember how the gospel has transformed your life (1 Timothy 1.12-14)
- Study the gospel – to grow in your passion for what Jesus has done, increase your understanding of what he has done.
- Practice incarnating the gospel. Be a friend to sinners.

#### **IMPLICATION: *Our preaching and ministry will be empty of power.***

- Many a pastor toils in the pulpit week-in and week-out without power, without conviction, and without fruit. Why? Because his own life lacks the power, conviction, and spiritual fruit that can only be brought to bear on his own soul by being immersed in the transforming power of the gospel daily.

### **LESSON #4: See that your example does not contradict your doctrine.**

"We must study hard as how to live well, as how to preach well. We must think and think again, how to compose our lives, as well as our sermons." (Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor*, p. 64)

#### **IMPLICATION: *You have a heaven to win or lose as well as other men.***

"Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers." [1 Timothy 4.16]

- Eternity is at stake for both you and your hearers.

### **LESSON #5: See to it that the gospel guards your heart from Satan's attacks.**

- See that you live not in those sins against which you preach in others.

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." [1 Peter 5.8]

- Who is Peter writing this passage to? Those who shepherd the flock.

#### **IMPLICATION: *The honor of Christ rests more on you than other men.***

- You have many eyes upon you, and there will be many to observe your falls.
- Your sins will have more heinous aggravation than other men's.



## How do you guard your heart with the gospel?

**LESSION #6: See that you live authentically so that sanctification can work deeply in your soul.**

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* [James 5.16]

**IMPLICATION: You will lead a community of gospel transformation.**

**LESSON #7: See to it that you depend desperately on the power of the gospel for all of ministry.**

- Such great works as yours require greater grace than other men's.
- The success of your labors materially depends on you relying fully on the ongoing work of the gospel in your life.
- Our whole work must be carried out under a deep sense of our own insufficiency, and of our entire dependence on Christ.

*"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."* [Colossians 1.28-29]

**IMPLICATION: Christ will get all the glory for our ministry.**

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* [Ephesians 3.20-21]

### **Recommend Reading:**

*The Reformed Pastor*, Richard Baxter

*The Cross Centered Life*, CJ Mahaney

*The Discipline of Grace*, Jerry Bridges

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