



Part #1 – Modern Living, Vintage Values: Returning to the Basics

Jeremiah 6:16-21

Discuss Sermon

- What is the significance of reclaiming “Vintage Values” as a culture?
- How does your walk serve as a witness to others? What are two ways you can improve your walk this week?

The Hebrew term for “**Walk**” carries the idea of a conscious choice of action that refers to following God’s Word and His plan above all others even though the road is tough and narrow.

Exchange Views

Each of us faces pain and difficulties, no two ways about it. I firmly believe that in every situation, no matter how difficult, God extends grace greater than the hardship, and strength and peace of mind that can lead us to a place higher than where we were before. – **Andy Griffith**

Many times people lose sight of the most important values in life when they go through difficult situations or get overwhelmed with the busyness of life. During the days of Jeremiah, the nation of Israel lost focus of the most important priority in life. The Lord sent the prophet to remind them of His Word and direct them return to Him.

- What are some of the obstacles that have caused you to lose focus on “Vintage Values” over the years?
- What advice would you give others to encourage them to stay focused on the right values in this life?

Examine Text – Jeremiah 6:16-21

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What realities found in Jeremiah chapter six apply in our culture today?

Personalize Truth

We learned about a “**Four Step Strategy**” of Reclaiming those Vintage Values and Returning to the Basics in the message today. The strategy is known as the “**S.L.A.W.**” strategy:

- **Step #1** – We Must Stand for Truth
- **Step #2** – We Must Look for Moments of Application of the Word of God
- **Step #3** – We Must Ask for God to Move the Heart of the Nation
- **Step #4** – We Must Walk in the Word of God as a Nation

This is not a new idea by any means. This strategy was presented to the nation of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah as they went through a very similar time as ours as a country. God used Jeremiah just like He wants to use Christians today to deliver these same ***Four Steps in Reclaiming Vintage Values*** in order to return to Him.

- How can you apply these four steps in your own life this week?
- How can you help others apply these four steps?

Part #2 – Vintage Values: Gaining Perspective on Principle and Priorities

Hebrews 12:1-2

Discuss Sermon

“There is a choice you have to make in everything you do. So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you.” – *John Wooden*

Many people go through times in life when they lose focus on what is most important. It is at times like this that you need to be reminded of the importance of Vintage Values: Gaining Perspective on Principles and Priorities. The Lord reminds us that each of us are running a race of faithfulness in this life and we must be prepared to overcome the obstacles that the enemy brings our way as well as maintain the right focus upon the author and perfecter of our faith.

- How does reclaiming “Vintage Values” help you gain the right perspective when it comes to principles and priorities?
- How can you equip yourself and your fellow Christians to “run with endurance” when it comes to faithfully pursuing the Lord in life?

The Greek word for **Endurance** describes a steady determination to keep going. It carries the idea of “continuing the course” even when everything in you wants to slow down or give up.

Exchange Views

You will never change your life until you change something you do daily.
– *John Maxwell*

During life you will have setbacks and obstacles which the Lord will always strengthen you to overcome as long as you remain faithful to Him. You must always remember that the Christian life is more like a marathon than a sprint. God has called us to maintain a faithful walk with Him every day not just once in awhile.

- What are some changes that you can make in your walk with the Lord that will help you maintain a better focus upon Him this week?
- What does it mean to “look to Jesus” as the author and perfecter of your faith?

Examine Text – Hebrews 12:1-2

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What are expectations and blessings of living as a Christian as found in these verses?

Personalize Truth

Time is limited and many things will compete for your time in this life. You must always remember this simple truth, “*There’s never enough time to do everything, but there’s always enough time to do the most important thing.*” The most important thing that you can do as Christian is set your focus upon the pursuit of the Lord as the top priority each day. If you don’t know where to start then begin with trying this “**Four Step Strategy**” that will help you Gain the Right Perspective on Principles and Priorities:

- **Step #1** – Consciously set the goal of spending time with the Lord each day.
- **Step #2** – Choose one person that will help hold you accountable to spending time with the Lord.
- **Step #3** – Consciously open your heart, mind, and eyes to see the items that are distracting you from spending time with the Lord each day.
- **Step #4** – Memorize one verse each week that will encourage you to stay the course in your walk with the Lord for that week.

These are not new ideas but it is important to be reminded of getting back to the basics especially during times of distractions and pitfalls in life. The Lord will reward your faithful pursuit of Him but you must be sure to stay the course!

Part #3 – Vintage Values: Profiles of Encouragement

Philippians 2:17-30

Discuss Sermon

Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.
– William Arthur Ward

People enjoy being “encouragers” because they are always ready with an encouraging word. The simplest words and actions can have a powerful impact on the life of another. I can still remember the people who encouraged me as I was growing up and I bet you can too. God the Father never intended you or me to live in isolation. The Christian life is one of relationship. First with God and then with each other. Yes, close friendships are sometimes uncomfortable or inconvenient. But they are tremendously important in the kingdom of God. One of the most powerful aspects of living in community with fellow believers is the context it provides for giving and receiving encouragement. We live in a world that is increasingly fragmented and isolated. Christians need meaningful, uplifting connections with one another more than ever. We need encouragement.

- Why is encouragement for one another so important today?
- How can you more effectively encourage other Christians in your life this week?

The word for “encouragement” is a compound of the prefix “en” meaning to put in or into; and the word courage, meaning confidence, strength. To “encourage,” then, literally means to put courage into someone.”

Exchange Views

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) – Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Bible gives us examples of those who encouraged others. Consider some of these examples: (1) Barnabas, whose name means “son of encouragement,” knew how to support others. (2) The apostle Paul was also an encourager. (3) Our Lord demonstrated the most important example of a lifestyle of encouragement.

- What have you learned from the different profiles of encouragement that you find through the pages of Scripture that equips you to encourage others even better than before?
- Who has served as a profile of encouragement in your life over the years?

Examine Text – Philippians 2:17-30

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What lessons on encouragement are found in these verses?

Personalize Truth

Never forget that there are many ways to show encouragement. Try to show more encouragement this week.

- You can call someone, write a letter, or even send a text. Try asking, “How can I pray for you?” Take the initiative to meet a need or give a thoughtful gift. Sacrifice your time to be with a friend who may be lonely. Weep with those who weep. Express affirmation and agreement when possible.
- Share scriptures that speak directly to their situations. You can also encourage others by being a good example to them and giving loving, godly correction. Almost all people will feel uplifted if you really listen to them. Show your loyalty—let people know they can count on you. Don’t be afraid to say, “I love you,” especially to your family. Finally, the easiest way to be an encouragement is simply smile and share the love of Christ.

Part #4 – Vintage Values: Lessons on Lasting Leadership

Acts 20:17-21, 27-32

Discuss Sermon

What we do on some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are: and what we are will be the result of previous years of self-discipline.

– H.P. Liddon

When most folks hear the term leader, they think of presidents, pastors, teachers, and CEOs. But very few think of themselves. And yet, it's true. You are a leader. As a Christian, you are an influencer for Christ, an ambassador for the Lord, and a change-agent for the gospel of God's grace. Yet Biblical leadership does not come naturally to most people, actually it takes a commitment to service, sacrifice, and humility. All of these virtues and much more require you to daily prepare yourself to Biblically lead others.

- What are three ways that you can prepare yourself to Biblically lead others?
- What lessons do you want to teach others with your words and your walk?

Exchange Views

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) – And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also...

Biblical leadership is needed in our culture now more than ever before. We need this type of leadership in the home, the church, the community, and throughout the country. Sadly, today our society is settling for immoral leaders that are lively and charismatic in character but fail in the area of basic morality and Biblical living. When it comes to choosing heroes, many people today often choose style rather than substance in the area of integrity and honor.

- What are three characteristics of a Biblical leader that are needed among leaders today?
- Identify one or more Biblical leaders that serve as an example today. What have you learned from these leaders?

Examine Text – Acts 20:17-21, 27-32

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What lessons of leadership do we learn that still apply in the local church today?

Personalize Truth

Today's message taught us four lessons that the Apostle Paul often used to train up young leaders. These lessons are known as the "L.E.A.D. Project."

How can you apply these lessons in your own life as you train up others?

- **Lesson #1 – Look and Listen** for the Work, the Word, and the Will of the Lord
- **Lesson #2 – Equip and Educate:** Arm Others With Discernment and Desire
- **Lesson #3 – Affirm and Align:** Help Others Connect with their Calling
- **Lesson #4 – Delegate and Direct:** Help Others Discover How to use their Talent for God's Glory

