

Week Five: Vision of a Good Helper Part 4

DO

"Finally, you must help your friend Do something with what she learns—to apply the insights God has given to her daily life and relationships. Insight alone does not change; it's only the beginning. Insights about who we are, who God is, and what he has given us in Christ must be applied to the practical, specific realities of life" (*Instruments*, p. 112).

What is DO about? Why is it important?

- "We all need people to stand alongside us as we apply God's word to our lives...We cannot leave people to themselves or advise them from a distance. Yet all too often, our ministry is weakest here. We fail to recognize that, on their own, people often have a hard time applying biblical truths to their lives" (*Instruments*, p. 243, 245).
- We must help one another DO something with the Word of God; with what we hear (James 1:19-25). God calls us to listen to His word, to receive it with humility, and to be doers of it.
- 1 Timothy 1:5 & Galatians 5:6. We progress in truly walking by faith and bearing the fruit of love in the little moments of life.
- Luke 8:15. We receive the Word of God, hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.
- Consider the pleas of Paul
 - 2 Corinthians 11:1-3. Devotion to Christ in every area of life.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20. Reconciliation to Christ in every area of life until we are wholly His.

Consider Jesus and the Gravity of the Call to Listen and Obey.

Listen to Him

- Matthew 17:5. What the Father says of Him.
- Acts 3:22-23. What Peter says of Him.
- Not only the words in red in our bibles but Genesis to Revelation. It all relates to Christ and all relates to us in Christ.
- Do we consider with utmost importance what the Lord has to say about the issues that concern us? ***What's most important about your life***, marriage, job, money, vacations, sickness, hobbies, future, time, parenting, identity, depression, trials, suffering, being sinned against, forgiveness, anger, hope, prayer, devotion, your place in the church, and your day to day little moments ***is who Jesus is, what He thinks and says.***
 - Where are you refusing to listen to the Lord; resisting His gentle convictions?

Obey / Do the Will of God

- John 4:34. Jesus' food was to do His Father's will.
- Matthew 7:21. Those who enter the kingdom of heaven are those who do the will of Jesus' Father.
- Matthew 15:8. Do we honor Him with our lips while having distant hearts?
- Do we minimize the obedience of faith that He calls us to? Do we shun the laws and precepts of this King? Remember Matthew 5:17-19.

What does DO look like in helpful relationships?

1. Help a person stand in the Gospel

- How else will you become all that God is calling you to be if not by grace through faith?
- We have a Father who has saved us for good works, who has showered us with grace in order that we might repent, trust, and obey.
- We have a Lord (Jesus Christ) who not only commands obedience but dies for the rebels He instructs in order to deliver them from sin (both the condemnation due to them and the power of sin within them).
- We have a Helper (the Holy Spirit) to remind us of all that Jesus said and to empower us to submit to, trust, and obey God.
- Christianity is not about getting off the hook of condemnation merely; it is about having a life radically renewed to walk and please God in Christ.

2. Help a person remember their identity in Christ

- Do you know who you are in Him?
- We are not the sum of our problems, sins, or struggles.
 - "...we always live out of some kind of identity, and the identities we assign ourselves powerfully influence our responses to life" (*Instruments*, p. 260).
- We are children of the Living God who have been given all that we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- Do we really believe that God has provided everything we need to live lives of godliness? Do we really believe that no matter what we are facing in our lives right now God has provided what we need in order to live lives pleasing to Him?

3. Help a person clarify their responsibility

- What is God calling you to do in this relationship and situation?
- What things will you entrust to God and what things will you do that you are responsible to do?
- Philippians 2:12-13

4. Help by providing accountability

- How can I help you press forward in the path that God has set before you?
- "Accountability provides loving structure, guidance, encouragement, and warning to someone who is fully committed to the change God is working in his life" (*Instruments*, p. 269).
- In one sense you are as accountable as you want to be. In another sense we are all unavoidably accountable to God for our words and deeds. Why not invite one another into our lives now to walk with us in the areas that we know God is calling for change in? If not now, what will be revealed in the last day when we stand before God for those areas?
- "Accountability is to know me really well and still love me" (*Quotes/Testimonies in Biblical Soul Care for the Local Church*, p. 13, Garrett Higbee).