

Bay City Wesleyan Church
October 2, 2016

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Sunday Morning 10-02-2016

The Holy Spirit reveals our progress on our spiritual journey. He sets us free from slavery to sin assuring us of our adoption into God's family. He opens our eyes to the spiritual reality around us. And he helps us become managers of all God entrusts to us.

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Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey

Are you making progress on your spiritual journey? Are you headed the right direction? How do you know?

Starting today, September 18th, we will look for a few of the "Mile Markers on Your Spiritual Journey." There are several shifts in our souls that develop on our spiritual journeys. Bring a friend next week so he or she can discover the mile markers too.

Each of us is on a spiritual journey in this life. You are headed somewhere; but how do you know which direction you're going? How did you choose your destination? How can you tell if you're making progress?

We are discovering four important mile markers on the way to knowing Jesus better.

· When I trust the Holy Spirit to guide me toward Jesus, I am no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

· When I'm headed toward Jesus, my faith sees the real world, not simply the physical world.

[Image]

I have a hard time with selfies.

http://dlo2alqw72zlh8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1475375595892_152x152.jpg

What if there was a selfie for my soul?

What if there was a way to see my spirit as clearly as I see my physical image in a selfie?

What about you guys? Wouldn't we all do better in our spiritual lives if we could look at selfies of our souls? How many of us would post a selfie of our souls on Facebook?

May I suggest that there is a selfie for our souls and we post it everywhere all the time?

Mark 10:17-31 NLT

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" This amazed

them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said. "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then. "

Here's Jesus' point. It is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God because accumulated possessions tend to trap us in an attitude of self-sufficient security. It is the effect of possessions on our souls that is the problem. A selfie of the rich man's soul would have looked like selfies of the disciples' souls. They all viewed possessions as blessings to grasp and to stockpile.

Psalms 24:1-2 NLT

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

Jesus looked at possessions as a manager instead of seeing them as a consumer.

First lesson of management: Possessions are not earned; they are given.

Second lesson of management: Managers have a fundamentally different vision of the master. To them, the master is generous. He believes in his servants, so he entrusts them with his possessions. He is easy to please.

Third lesson of management: The Owner's chief interest is for the manager's happiness. The manager's most-coveted thing is never the Owner's possessions but the Owner's happiness.

Sermon in a Sentence:

A manager freely says, "It's not my stuff."

What would your spiritual selfie reveal?

You live in the richest nation in the world. Even if you've been a deeply committed follower of Jesus for years, you are infected with the consumer virus that is an epidemic in our society. But the closer your relationship with Jesus grows, the more you will realize that he owns it all. You were created to be a manager, not a consumer.

Three mini-shifts as you move from consumer to steward:

1. From spending to saving
2. From saving to sharing
3. From sharing to blessing

Citation: Steve DeNeff; David Drury. SoulShift: The Measure of a Life Transformed. Kindle Edition.

There is a selfie for our souls, but most of us ignore it. We walk past it every day and never pause to look into it. It is our attitude toward possessions. Imagine with me what the world would be like if we looked deeply into the selfies for our souls.

What would your spiritual selfie reveal?

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