

Whoever finds his life will
lose it, and whoever loses
his life for my sake will
find it.
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

March 23, 2007

We are in it for the long haul...

5:55 – 6:05	<p>1) Coffee & Donuts</p> <p>2) Opening Prayer</p>
6:05 – 6:25	<p>1) Stories... ...see handout attached to the end of this document</p> <p>2) Paul—</p> <p>a) Reflecting on his life</p> <p>i) Second letter to Timothy likely written months before Paul’s death <i>For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing.</i> (2Tim 4:6-8 ASV)</p> <p>b) He had clearly persevered— <i>Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.</i> (2Cor 11:24-28 ESV)</p> <p>3) Our culture warps our perspective</p> <p>a) We expect excitement, stimulation, and relevance in every moment</p> <p>b) We are losing to ability to take the long view</p> <p>c) Moses: only used in last third of his life</p> <p>d) Abraham: God came to him in his old age</p> <p>e) Ester: used by God during a period of 4 days</p> <p>f) “Anonymous” Jews and Christians: quiet live of faith and local influence</p> <p>g) Jesus: three years of incarnate activity</p> <p>BUT...it was a life of faithfulness that led to God choosing these and other people</p>

Stories...

The story is told that Andrew Jackson's boyhood friends just couldn't understand how he became a famous general and then the President of the United States. They knew of other men who had greater talent but who never succeeded. One of Jackson's friends said, "Why, Jim Brown, who lived right down the pike from Jackson, was not only smarter but he could throw Andy three times out of four in a wrestling match. But look where Andy is now." Another friend responded, "How did there happen to be a fourth time? Didn't they usually say three times and out?" "Sure, they were supposed to, but not Andy. He would never admit he was beat -- he would never stay 'threwed.' Jim Brown would get tired, and on the fourth try Andrew Jackson would throw him and be the winner." Picking up on that idea, someone has said, "The thing that counts is not how many times you are 'threwed,' but whether you are willing to stay 'threwed'." We may face setbacks, but we must take courage and go forward in faith. Then, through the Holy Spirit's power we can be the eventual victor over sin and the world. The battle is the Lord's, so there is no excuse for us to say "threwed"!

Winston Churchill seemed so dull as a youth that his father thought he might be incapable of earning a living in England.

Charles Darwin did so poorly in school that his father once told him, "You will be a disgrace to yourself and all your family."

G.K. Chesterton, the English writer, could not read until he was eight. One of his teachers told him, "If we could open your head we should not find any brain but only a lump of white fat."

Thomas Edison's first teacher described him as "addled," and his father almost convinced him he was a "dunce."

Albert Einstein's parents feared their child was dull, and he performed so badly in all high school courses except mathematics that a teacher asked him to drop out.

When she was young, Florence Chadwick wanted desperately to be a great speed swimmer. At the age of six she persuaded her parents to enter her in a 50-yard race. She came in last, so she practiced every day for the new year. Again she entered and lost. When she was an 11-year old, Florence won attention and praise for completing the San Diego Bay endurance swim -- 6 miles in all. But she still wanted to be a speed swimmer. At 14 she tried for the national backstroke championship but came in second to the great Eleanor Holm. At 18 she tried out for Olympic speed swimming and came in fourth -- only three made the team. Frustrated, she gave it up, married, and moved on to other interests. As she matured, however, Florence began to wonder if she might not have done better if she had specialized in endurance swimming, something that came more naturally. So, with the help of her father, she began swimming distances again. Twelve years after she had failed to make the Olympic team, Florence Chadwick swam the

English Channel, breaking Gertrude Ederle's 24-year-old record. It took a little time, but eventually she found out what she could do best and did it.

The four years before an Olympics, Greg Louganis probably practiced each of his dives 3,000 times. Kim Zmeskal has probably done every flip in her gymnastics routine at least 20,000 times, and Janet Evans has completed more than 240,000 laps. Training works, but it isn't easy or simple. Swimmers train an average of 10 miles a day, at speeds of 5 mph in the pool. Marathon runners average 160 miles a week at 10 mph. Two important training principles must be followed: Progressively increase the amount and intensity of the work. Train specifically. Weightlifters don't run sprints, and basketball players don't swim.

This is the record of Abraham Lincoln:

Failed in business 22
Ran for Legislature--defeated 23
Again failed in business 24
Elected to Legislature 25
sweetheart died 26
Had a nervous breakdown 27
Defeated for Speaker 29
Defeated for Elector 31
Defeated for Congress 34
Elected to Congress 37
Defeated for Congress 39
Defeated for Senate 46
Defeated for Vice President 47
Defeated for Senate 49
Elected President of the United States 51

From the diary of John Wesley...

- Sunday, A.M., May 5: Preached in St. Anne's. Was asked not to come back anymore.
- Sunday, P.M., May 5: Preached in St. John's. Deacons said "Get out and stay out."
- Sunday, A.M., May 12: Preached in St. Jude's. Can't go back there, either.
- Sunday, A.M., May 19: Preached in St. Somebody Else's. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.
- Sunday, P.M., May 19: Preached on street. Kicked off street.
- Sunday, A.M., May 26: Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service.
- Sunday, A.M., June 2: Preached out at the edge of town. Kicked off the highway.
- Sunday, P.M., June 2: Afternoon, preached in a pasture. Ten thousand people came out to hear me.