

LESSON NINE

THE COMMITMENT PRINCIPLE

The Commitment Principle

Part 1 (of 2 parts)

University Objectives... (Reviewed)

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

_____ the Word!

Semper Vivus: _____

“This _____ is _____!”

“University” Defined:

“An institution of _____ at the highest _____.”

Principle Nine (of 12)

The _____ Principle

I can find ultimate purpose in life only by learning the essentials of total commitment in my Christian experience. I must serve as a good steward of everything God has given me, from my environmental surroundings to material possessions, including my life and health. All that I have must be controlled by my Lord and Savior. I hereby resolve

to choose this course of action, and in God's power I consider it done.

Primary Passage...

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

Foundational Premise...

"Premise" Defined:

"A proposition upon which an _____ is based or from which a _____ is drawn."

Premise...

"Foundational to meaningful _____ as a Christ-follower is to willingly take up one's cross of total _____ with a conscious _____ to die out to self in all areas of Christian _____."

THE COMMITTED CHRIST-FOLLOWER (PART 1) "MODELS THAT MOTIVATE"

Scripture:

If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Matthew 5:41 (NIV)

Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecies spoken to you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you. Give your complete attention

to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress.

1 Timothy 4:14-15 (NLT)

And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

2 Timothy 2:9-10 (NLT)

Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

2 John 1:8 (NLT)

...When the Philistines drew up for battle, Israel retreated. But Eleazar stood His ground and killed Philistines right and left until he was exhausted—but he never let go of his sword...

2 Samuel 23:9-10 (MSG)

SEVEN MODELS THAT MOTIVATE

1. Motivation-Model One:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Scripture:

Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was declared right with God because of what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, he was trusting God so much that he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. His faith was made complete by what he did—by his actions. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, so God

declared him to be righteous.” He was even called “the friend of God.”

James 2:21-23 (NLT)

2. Motivation-Model Two:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Scripture:

But Caleb tried to encourage the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land,” he said. “We can certainly conquer it!” But the other men who had explored the land with him answered, “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” So they spread discouraging reports about the land among the Israelites: “The land we explored will swallow up any who go to live there. All the people we saw were huge.”

Numbers 13:30-32 (NLT)

Of all those I rescued from Egypt, no one who is twenty years old or older will ever see the land I solemnly promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for they have not obeyed me completely. The only exceptions are Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they have wholeheartedly followed the Lord.

Numbers 32:11-12 (NLT)

3. Motivation-Model Three:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Scripture:

“Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is

against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I am willing to die.”

Esther 4:16 (NLT)

“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Esther 4:16 (NIV)

4. Motivation-Model Four:

The _____ model

An _____ spirit!

Scripture:

But Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief official for permission to eat other things instead.

Daniel 1:8 (NLT)

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Daniel 6:10 (NLT)

5. Motivation-Model Five:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Scripture:

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk

like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV)

6. Motivation-Model Six:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Scripture:

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

Luke 2:36-37 (NIV)

7. Motivation-Model Seven:

The _____ model

A _____ spirit!

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

Discuss what you feel are the “practical” essentials of living a life of commitment as a follower of Jesus. How can we be stewards of such diverse areas as our environmental surroundings and material possessions in regards to our life and health?

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

As you look over the several “models that motivate” in this teaching, pray for one or two of these qualities, asking that God would help you develop that quality (or qualities) in your walk with the Lord.

The Commitment Principle

Part 2 (of 2 parts)

THE COMMITTED CHRIST-FOLLOWER (PART 2) “PLANTING THAT PRODUCES”

THE SCOPE OF STEWARDSHIP

1. T _____
2. T _____
3. T _____
4. T _____

THE EXCELLENCE OF GIVING A Threefold Definition

1. Giving _____.

Scripture:

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all nations will call

you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 3:10-12 (NLT)

2. Giving _____.

Scripture:

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

3. Giving _____.

Scripture:

Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon... During supper, a woman came in with a beautiful jar of expensive perfume. She broke the seal and poured the perfume over his head. Some of those at the table were indignant. “Why was this expensive perfume wasted?” they asked. “She could have sold it for a small fortune and given the money to the poor!” And they scolded her harshly. But Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why berate her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But I will not be here with you much longer. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I assure you, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be talked about in her memory.”

Mark 14:3-9 (NLT)

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

Mark 14:9 (KJV)

PLANTING THAT PRODUCES **The Gift and Grace of Joyful Generosity!**

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR PLANTING

Scripture:

Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left to share with others... For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10 (NLT)

1. Principle One:

Our _____ will be in _____
to our _____.

Scripture:

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)

2. Principle Two:

Our _____ will be in _____
to our _____.

Scripture:

You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure...

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (MSG)

3. Principle Three:

Our _____ will be in _____
to our _____.

Scripture:

God loves it when the giver delights in giving.

2 Corinthians 9:7b (MSG)

Cheerful givers are the ones God prizes.

2 Corinthians 9:7b (TLB)

4. Principle Four:

Our _____ will be in
_____ to God's _____.

Scripture:

God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more...

2 Corinthians 9:8 (TLB)

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT)

The LORD is able to give you much more than this!

2 Chronicles 25:9b (NLT)

5. Principle Five:

The _____ of the _____ will
be in proportion to our _____.

Scripture:

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

Passages for Further Study

(See following page for an example.)

Look up these passages in your Bible, underline key phrases or put a box around them. Put a number “9” in the margin of your Bible by that passage and circle it. Then, go back to your primary passage (Matthew 16:24-25) and in the margin write these verses beside it or at the bottom of the page. In this way you will begin to cross-reference your Bible.

- Matthew 16:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
- Exodus 36:4-5
- Deuteronomy 8:10-18
- Judges 5:2
- 1 Chronicles 29:3, 16-17
- Proverbs 3:9-10
- Proverbs 11:24-25
- Matthew 6:19-20
- Matthew 10:32-39
- Matthew 13:44
- Mark 8:34-38
- Luke 6:38
- Luke 12:15-21
- Luke 14:25-28
- Luke 16:1-2
- Luke 18:29-30
- Acts 20:35
- Romans 13:8
- 1 Corinthians 16:2
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 7
- 1 Peter 4:10
- Matthew 5:41
- 1 Timothy 4:14-15
- 2 Timothy 2:9-10
- James 2:21-23
- Numbers 13:30-32
- Numbers 32:11-12
- Esther 4:16
- Daniel 1:8
- Daniel 6:10
- 2 Corinthians 11:23-27
- Luke 2:36-37
- Malachi 3:10-12
- Mark 14:3-9
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10
- 2 Corinthians 7:6b
- 2 Chronicles 25:9

1 Corth 4:1-2
Exodus 36:4-5
Deut. 8:10-18
Judges 5:2
1 Chron. 29:3, 16-17
Prov. 3:9-10
Prov. 11:24-25
Matt. 6:19-20
Matt. 10:32-39
Matt. 13:44
Mark 8:34-38
Luke 6:38
Luke 12:15-21
Luke 14:25-28
Luke 16:1-2
Luke 18:29-30
Acts 20:35
Romans 13:8
1 Corth. 16:2
2 Corth. 8:1-5, 7
1 Peter 4:10
Matt. 5:41
1 Timothy 4:14-15
2 Timothy 2:9-10
James 2:21-23
Numbers 13:30-32
Numbers 32:11-12
Esther 4:16
Dan. 1:8
Dan. 6:10
2 Corth. 11:23-27
Luke 2:36-37
Mal. 3:10-12
Mark 14:3-9
2 Corth. 9:6-8, 10
2 Chron. 25:9

Principle 9
Primary Passage

9
Primary
Passage

⁸Jesus knew about their conversation and asked, "Why are you discussing among yourselves that you don't have any bread? You have so little faith! ⁹Don't you understand yet? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand and how many baskets you filled? ¹⁰Don't you remember the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many large baskets you filled?"
¹¹Why don't you understand that I wasn't talking to you about bread? Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!"

¹²Then they understood that he didn't say to watch out for the yeast in bread, but to watch out for the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Peter Declares His Belief About Jesus

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴They answered, "Some say you are John the Baptizer, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵He asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! No human revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven revealed it to you. ¹⁸You are Peter, and I can guarantee that on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you imprison, God will imprison. And whatever you set free, God will set free."

²⁰Then he strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Foretells That He Will Die and Come Back to Life

²¹From that time on Jesus began to inform his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem. There he would have to suffer a lot because of the leaders, chief priests, and scribes. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be brought back to life.

²²Peter took him aside and objected to this. He said, "Heaven forbid, Lord! This must never happen to you!"

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get out of my way, Satan! You are tempting me to sin. You aren't thinking the way God thinks but the way humans think."

What It Means to Follow Jesus

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow me. ²⁵Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for me will find them. ²⁶What good will it do for people to win the whole world and lose their lives? Or what will a person give in exchange for life? ²⁷The Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory. Then he will pay back each person based on what that person has done. ²⁸I can guarantee this truth: Some people who are standing here will not die until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Talk Back Time:

(Share what you've learned with your small group.)

Discuss the various ways you see our giving as being a window into our souls when it comes to living a life of total commitment for Jesus. Why do you think the Apostle Paul said that God loves a cheerful giver?

Pray Back Time:

(Pray what you've learned in your small group.)

Pray that God will awaken the Body of Christ to the importance of giving obediently (the tithe); purposefully (by setting goals for projects or ministries); and sacrificially (in ways that may significantly stretch your faith). Ask God to help you remain faithful in these same areas of personal stewardship.
