

Monday, February 16, 2009

We have just come off a weekend that Hallmark has made millions from. A weekend where love is exalted and expectations of most relationships has been heightened.

What about your relationship this past weekend with your Heavenly Father?

Do you remember how we defined passion? . . . "a call to authenticate faith"

Can you think of other Biblical accounts or people who truly lived lives full of passion? Read Hebrews 11 (yep the entire chapter) and take a look at one of these characters listed in what is commonly known as "the hall of faith". Use the cross reference in your Bible to look back at where this person's story comes from and take some time to walk through the calls of passion in their life.

1. A call to follow
2. A call to die
3. A call to worship

Where did their passion authenticate their faith?

Take some time right now to think about ways you can be more authentic in your faith . . . places you go today, people you visit, family moments.

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

"A call to follow". Read Luke 9:57-62. Jesus has just been turned away from a Samaritan village and is walking along a road with the disciples when all of a sudden a group of men comes up to Him and seem to want to follow Him. Jesus responds to each of them differently. What do you think the meanings of these three challenges are? What are some of the excuses you give to not following God in a given moment?

When did you first respond to the call in your life to follow Christ? Can you recall where you were, the sense of that place? What brought you to your knees in submission of God calling you to follow Him? What things did you give up or "miss out" on? What things did God spare you from because of your obedience in deciding to follow Him?

Take some time to praise God today for the things He has "saved" you from. Praise Him for the passion He has for seeking you to come to know Him and be made new. Seek forgiveness for the excuses you have given for not following Him.

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

"A call to die". I recently saw a powerful video clip where a business man is walking down the street and stumbles upon a huge cross in an alley and then goes and picks it up and ends up carrying it around with Him for the day and no one even turns their head to notice the absurdity of it all. What would others think of you carrying around a physical cross in your day today? Who would notice? Who would say something? How would you respond in explaining the passage of Luke 9:18-27?

Our culture has become so numb to death and even glorifies it in so many ways. From the TV shows we watch, to the news, the movies, etc. Our youth culture has seen icons glorified by suicide and accidental overdoses. Does this trouble you? Why? Is it because the world has taught them a false sense of glory and is winning the hearts of our children?

Take some time to pray for your teens and children today. Pray also for your own example of being willing to die to the things of this world that your passion may be directed in the right place . . . in full devotion and in the likeness of Christ!

Thursday, February 19, 2009

"A call to worship". Read Psalm 145. Now pray through this Psalm as an act of adoration and worship this day. Read this through with your family and take some time to (v.4) "commend His works and tell of His mighty acts".

Have you ever considered your posture of worship? Have you ever been facedown before God? Have you ever knelt before God? Do you have a passion for worship? What does this look like?

Each of us have been on family vacations, spent a holiday or two, together with family. When was the last time you spent some time praising God together. Can you place yourself on that same mountain amidst Abraham and Isaac and imagine what that worship and prayer time would be like?

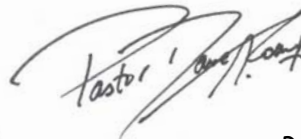
Take some time today to worship God in the presence of His provision for you!

Friday, February 20, 2009

Today we prepare for another worship experience as a "passionate people" of God we call Calvary. This past week we have challenged you personally and then on your own family's view of passion. Are you ready to bring an authentic faith to worship and has this week been passion filled for you? What stories and testimony would you offer where your passion has been so authentic this week?

How does the theology of passion "fit" within our theme verse . . . Exodus 9:16? What purpose does passion have in our lives? How does passion show God's power in all the earth? How would passion help proclaim His name in all the earth?

Consider taking these "calls" that should define passion for us and use them to prepare your heart for worship - a call to follow, a call to die to self, a call to fully engage in worship! What would it do for the intergenerational worship that is so unique to Calvary?



Pastor Dave Cousens

February 16 - 20, 2009

Living the

*Magnificent
Mystery . . .*
of Passion



A Disciplemaking Tool
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Engaging With God

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