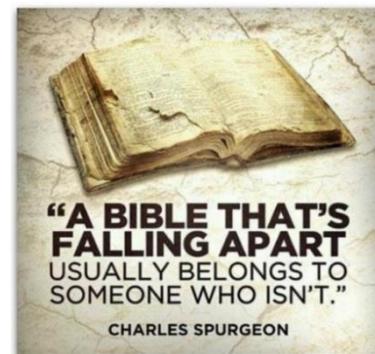




Apr.1-7, 2019



## A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on [beachesbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:beachesbaptist@gmail.com) with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

### DISCIPLESHIP *Unofficial Chaplaincy*

DISCIPLESHIP- what is it, and what does it mean? Some of our traditional ways of understanding discipleship are only partially correct. When some hear the term discipleship they often think of some kind of Bible study curriculum. When taking the disciples on this journey of discipleship, did Jesus sit down to teach his disciples with a pile of Bible study curriculum and say, "Well I've only got three years with you and over that time we will work our way through this discipleship training manual"? No, we know that one of the key elements to making the process work was his insistence of having them continually with him (Mk.3:14). They not only heard his words but experienced his works and his ways as well.

This week we look at the concept of 'unofficial chaplaincy', which has originated from the book *Unofficial Chaplain* (by Warren Crank). This concept is being used to demonstrate that we have all been commissioned to be disciple-makers. Not only that, but it is something that is very much in reach for the every-day-ordinary-Christian. Follow the acrostic C.H.A.P.L.A.I.N to see how.

#### Monday

#### COMMISSIONED

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Reflect:** You have been commissioned to be disciple-makers. You are the salt of the earth...STAY SALTY! You are the light of the world...LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! WHY LIVE THIS WAY? – ...that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Mt.5:16).

Tuesday

HOLISTIC

Acts 10:37-38 (ESV)

<sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

AMBASSOR FOR CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. <sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling <sup>[b]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**Reflect:** HOLISTIC- Jesus ministry consistently cared for the whole person- we should follow his example. AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST- We are Christ’s representatives in this world. Do I draw people to God by the life I live?

Wednesday

PREPARED TO SHARE HOPE

1 Peter 3:13-17 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. <sup>17</sup> Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

**Reflect:** Think about it. What hope does the not-yet-Christian really have? They have no ultimate hope. The way you deal with suffering and persecution, and the way you honour Jesus by your holy life will cause questions to come your way. Be ready to answer them.

## Thursday

### LOVE PEOPLE

John 3:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...

1 John 4:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Reflect:** Our love for people should reflect that of the Father's who loved people so much that he gave his one and only son as a sacrifice for our sins. If we love people, opportunities to share your faith will happen. Trust is in short supply these days- as Christians we must love first before they love us.

## Friday

### ANTICIPATE ANTAGONISM

Matthew 5:44 (ESV)

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

1 Peter 2:21-23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

**Reflect:** Something changes in your own heart when you pray for the person who persecutes you. Some people will hate you just because you are a 'God-follower'. Jesus gives us the example to follow in the face of antagonism.

## Saturday

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

1 Peter 3:12 (ESV)

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer.  
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Romans 8:26-27 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Reflect:** • Pray for people by name • Get other Christians to pray with you • Pray with people-ask, "Would you like me to pray for you?" • Get people to connect with God in prayer themselves- ask, "Have you ever tried to pray?"

## Sunday

### NUDGE PEOPLE TOWARDS JESUS

John 4:7-15 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

<sup>9</sup>The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

<sup>11</sup>“But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup>And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. <sup>14</sup>But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup>“Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

**Reflect:** Jesus understood the Samaritan woman’s great spiritual thirst so, like drawing water from a well, he drew it out of her, making her aware of her deep need. As Lance Foley (former high school and prison chaplain from the Gold Coast) often says, “We’ve got to keep our conversations salty so people will see their need for a drink.”