



KEEP CALM because GOD'S IN CHARGE

Learning to Trust in the Power and Sovereignty of God

Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group

Lesson #1 | Thursday, February 25, 2021

These days it's hard to know if anyone is actually in charge! Rest assured, **God is in complete control**. If there was ever a time to explore Biblical truths on the Power of God—this is it! When those around us are panicking and “losing their heads”, we can remain calm by trusting in the Power of God and His plan for our lives. In this 4-week series we'll explore **your story**, and the plans God has for you. Our nation needs men of confidence who know the Source of all truth and power – Jesus Christ. We can become these men for such a time as this!

This week's lesson is focused on your story and you the “HERO” God has called you to be.

Week 1: YOUR STORY: Become the “HERO” God has called you to be.

Week 2: YOUR BATTLE: Identifying the “BATTLES” you've been called to fight.

Week 3: YOUR GUIDE: Every hero needs a “GUIDE” to achieve *victory without fear*.

Week 4: YOUR VICTORY: Your role in the “KINGDOM of GOD” and *fighting the good fight*.

I'll admit I am “treading lightly” in this week's lesson because as followers of Jesus is it very important that life not be about us. As Andy often tells us (and Rickey before him), “It's not about YOU!”. It is very easy to make life about us, but sometimes we need to look in the mirror and to “see what we see”. This is a healthy exercise if our purpose is to evaluate what God sees in our lives and for us to be *conformed to the image of Jesus* (Romans 8:28-33, specifically verse 29).

In my 52 years on this planet, I've never really looked at my life as a story, although sometimes I have felt like I'm in the middle of a nightmare and I can't wake up! This past weekend I sat down and “mapped out my life” (something you'll get to do for homework this week). It was very eye-opening and a bit humbling. Consider some events in your life that might include the following:

- When and where you were born.
- The family into which you were born.
- Successes and accomplishments that have shaped your life (e.g., sports, music, education, career, etc.).
- Milestone events that impacted how you view life, people, and situations.
- Disappointments and set-backs (i.e., times when life didn't go the way you wanted).
- Times when you have felt God's Hand on your life and seen His work.

Part of why we're starting this series by looking at ourselves is to build a foundation for a future version of ourselves. In his 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Winston Churchill said, “**Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.**” If we can see ourselves from the outside, we can “objectively” see how God has uniquely positioned us to do a job that only we can do. This is a process of discovery. On a Sunday morning several years ago Bart Brown quoted Mark Twain: “**The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.**”

As followers of Jesus, much of what we are doing in this life is to prepare us for the next life. I'm afraid most Americans don't think this way. I am astounded by how few people think either about either spiritual or eternal things. Ultimately, we will all face judgement and we need to be prepared. Those of us who are followers of Jesus will experience the Bema (the Judgment Seat of Christ)¹, which is discussed numerous times in the New Testament, including 2 Corinthians 5:10.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

In the Old Testament, Solomon admonishes us with the following advice (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Although Solomon did not always practice what he preached, it's important for us to remind ourselves he was the wisest man who ever lived.

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

One point I want to end on for this lesson is at time the world can make us feel pretty insignificant. When is the last time someone encouraged you outside of church? We can also get down on ourselves as men and feel as if we have not accomplished enough. This is often the driver in the proverbial "mid-life crisis." **Satan's lie for the non-Believer is they can never be good enough, while Satan's lie for the Believer is they can never do enough.** To a large extent, God's expectations are relatively simple for us as humans: (1) Put our trust in Jesus, (2) Love God and others (including sharing the Gospel), (3) take care of people (especially family members), (4) work hard and honor Jesus with our work, (5) be obedient, and (6) use the talents, skills, and resources to honor Him. It's not really that hard, is it?!

In our group discussion, let's consider the following questions together.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What important events have shaped your life?
2. How has studying the Bible shaped your view of life? How about Church and relationships with other Believers?
3. How would you describe your life? Overall, have you enjoyed life, or do you believe you've got the *short end of a stick*?
4. This is somewhat personal, but how do you believe God has uniquely gifted you to do His work in your life? Think in terms of beliefs, convictions, experiences, talents, skills, and resources.
5. In looking to the future, how would you like to see God work in your life?

¹ If you have never read Joe Wall's book on the Bema, *Going for the Gold*, I strongly recommend it. It is likely the best book ever written on the future rewards and judgment that face the Believer and why we need to live today in preparation for the tomorrow that awaits us in Heaven.



LIFE HISTORY TIMELINE MAP

Using the timeline below write down significant people, events, and milestones in your life. Examples include family members and close friends, mentors, career milestones, accomplishments, and disappointments. Think as if you were writing a book about your own life – what would be in the story? Of particular importance from a spiritual standpoint are times when you have seen God work in your life, such as the time of your salvation, people you have led to Jesus and discipled, losses, etc. The goal is for us to observe our lives from a “Director’s Perspective” to build a framework for ways where God might use us in the future. God is always at work...

Category	Years of Your Life									
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	
People										
Milestone Events										
Successes & Accomplishments										
Setbacks & Disappointments										
God-ordained Events & Experiences										