



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Isaiah 6:8; other verses cited: Ecclesiastes 4:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 50:15.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

The Right Place at the Right Time

We often hear people say... *"I was just in the right place at the right time."*
The right place at the right time...

God's greatest opportunities are often found where His direction and our obedience intersect. (*Right place at right time is NOW.*)

Think about a time when you ended up in the right place at the right time—but looking back, you can see God's hand in it.

What made that moment feel more than coincidence?

Sometimes that may be true. But believers understand something deeper. Billy remembers being at the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1999 and hearing God's call on his life into full time ministry.

Obey God's call before understanding God's plan.

Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

God wasn't conducting a talent search... I KNEW I was in the right place...

However... It's not being in the right place at **"the"** right time. *It's **God's place at God's time.***

The Bible is full of people who found themselves in unexpected places: Moses in Egypt. Peter and Andrew at their boat, Paul to Emmaus, None of those locations were accidents.

Psalms 37:23-24: "The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way."

Table Talk this week with Robby Maloney visiting our church again to give us an update and insight into being a missionary of the gospel: Robby graduated high school and went to the mission field in the Dominican Republic. He teaches third grade English and Spanish. He has about 30 students. He went for three months and is now full-time.

What belief did you have before becoming a missionary that turned out to be wrong?

Robby talked about how life is in the Dominican Republic. Water is delivered only twice a week. 40% of adults do not have a job. Most roofs leak. Not many paved roads. It rains nine months out of the year. 80% of them are practicing Catholics.

What's something you assumed ministry would be like that you later discovered wasn't true?

Robby thought he would be able to see the results in the kids and still are very down and going house to house in the DR and sometimes not even seeing them again. Not seeing life change can be difficult. Ministry is day to day.

Most people assume missionaries just stand around preaching all day.

He said he spends most of his time in conflict with the kids and that are acting out like they see their parents act, upset and sees what is going on in their house. Around 30 kids. They live in many broken homes and get water twice a week. Most of it is relationship building. They desire like us to be loved.

What has marriage changed about missions? His wife is a part of another ministry organization, and his wife is an interpreter for that ministry. His wife has been through a lot of what the kids have grown up through and grew up there and at school there. Since this is the biggest life change since his last visit.

Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil."

Billy says he would imagine your marriage has made this much more "Personal" and would also imagine that her perspective changes almost everything in the way you look at it?

Robby said he has been able to help her, how to pray for others and make them feel loved by others. Some of their ministries are going door to door to visit. Seeing their lives and his life he is struck with is he is worthy to even share with them in relation to their world.

They get water every other week and give them filters that can help them and that give the story that Christ can filter the water like this for their life and they have tears and it makes you feel inadequate. "

"Was there a moment when you realized, 'I can't do this on my own'? Sometimes inadequacy is not a weakness, it is a doorway to dependence

"This one house roof had about 20 leaks in it and I was frustrated and she was like this is the way it is. She was calm and she said we can clean it up and it was a great learning experience for me."

Is it possible that God brings us to the end of our self-reliance so that we can understand the sufficiency of Christ?

"Living on less and they learned and I have too to be more grateful that they receive water and some people have to go a river and get a bucket for water."

"Tell us about a small moment that convinced you God was moving even when there was no crowd, no applause, and no social media post."

"We give out buckets with water filters, and we were visiting a Haitian community, and knocked on a door and we presented the filter and they broke down in tears, and it meant so much to them and changes their life."

Acts 17:26

"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth..." **What is one lesson that all of us need to learn from your being here?**

There has to be something practical in all of this. What do we need to leave this place knowing?

Robby said he has learned that a lot of people can learn is just **being content** and **grateful**. Makes me content with what I have in life and grow when I am living on less and don't have much. It has evolved my relationship with Christ and has given me peace and joy and love though that living with less. It changes how I see possessions and accomplishments. "

God's greatest opportunities are often found where His direction and our obedience intersect.

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

Living this out begins with paying attention. If God's greatest opportunities are found where His direction and our obedience intersect, then we need to slow down enough to notice where He may already be leading. Sometimes we are looking for something big and dramatic, but God may be asking us to take one small step of faith right where we are. What is that step for you this week? Pray for God to reveal them to you.

In our families, this may look like choosing patience when we would rather react, listening when we are tempted to lecture, or speaking encouragement when someone at home feels worn down. Obedience may be as simple as praying with your spouse, checking on your kids, apologizing first, or creating space for honest conversations about faith. Sometimes the "right place at the right time" is your own kitchen table. It maybe realizing the "shortness" of this life and working on repairing broken family relationships in these last days.

In our communities, we can ask God to open our eyes to the people we pass by every week but may not really see. Who is lonely? Who is struggling? Who needs help, prayer, a meal, a ride, or just a reminder that they are not forgotten? We do not have to go across the world to live on mission. We can begin by loving our neighbors, serving with humility, and being willing to step into needs instead of stepping around them. What is a ministry you can serve in and connect to?

In our workplaces, obedience may show up in how we treat people when no one is watching. It may be choosing integrity, refusing gossip, working with excellence, (Colossians 3:23) showing compassion to a difficult coworker, or being ready to share why our hope is in Christ when the opportunity comes. Our jobs are not just places to earn a living; they can also become places where God uses our character, our words, and our kindness to point people toward Him. We are "Ambassadors for Christ," in our workplaces.

In everyday life, we can practice saying, "Lord, here I am. Send me," before we know every detail of the plan. That kind of obedience does not mean we will always feel confident. In fact, like Robby shared, God often uses our weakness to teach us

dependence. When we feel inadequate, that may be the very place where Christ's strength is most clearly seen.

A question to carry into the week: Where is God asking me to obey Him before I fully understand what He is doing?

A simple prayer: Lord, help me recognize Your direction and give me the courage to obey. Use me in my home, my church, my workplace, and my community. Make me content, grateful, dependent on You, and ready to say yes when You lead. Amen.

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not

accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.