

Sermon Notes:

Have a Faith Worth Sharing

1. Remain Vigilant

- When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. (Luke 11:29-35)

All Passages from the English Standard Version

2 Remain Qualified

- Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)

3 Remain Empowered

- the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (Colossians 1:26-29)

Gregory Alan Tidwell

Five Pounds Lighter

A lady discovered that her bathroom scales registered five pounds lighter if she stood on her left foot instead of her right foot. It made no difference to her that outside scales confirmed the right-foot weight. She wanted to be lighter than she was, so she took comfort in standing on her left foot.

One of the most amazing features of the human psyche is the ability to delude ourselves. People frequently believe what they want to believe regardless of the truth. Believing something does not change a lie into the truth. Shifting her feet on the scale did not really change her actual weight.

The New Testament provides a number of passages that remind us of the folly of deceiving or deluding ourselves. The Scriptures urge us, "Do not be deceived." It says that because we are all so prone to fool ourselves into thinking that we are the exception to the rule or that the consequences won't really fall on us. The Scriptures urge us, "Be not deceived," and affirm these truths:

- 1 Cor. 6:9 "the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God."
- 1 Cor. 15:33 "Bad company corrupts good morals."
- Gal. 6:7 "God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."
- James 1:15-16 "when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

In addition to these warnings, James spoke of those who delude themselves by merely hearing the Word but fail to make the needed changes (James 1:22-25). John said the person who claims he has no sin actually deceives himself (1 John 1:8).

Don't twist things around trying to make them seem different than they really are. Be honest with yourself and with God. Live a life that pleases Him.

—Phil Sanders