

3.18.12

## Walking Dusty...

teacher: Adam Lynch

After Adam's teaching, I found myself thinking about the verse he used from Romans. In it Paul describes being in debt to everyone and says he must share the Gospel because he's been given everything in Christ. "Both to Greeks and to barbarians (to the cultured and to the uncultured), both to the wise and the foolish, I have an obligation to discharge and a duty to perform and a debt to pay. So, for my part, I am willing and eagerly ready to preach the Gospel to you also who are in Rome." (Romans 1:14-15 Amplified Bible)

Believing and living like I've been given everything in Christ is difficult for me, and I think it goes against our American culture. Consider the lotto winner who continued to use food stamps. After winning \$1 million, she felt there was nothing wrong with remaining on assistance. What about stories of athletes who seem to be unable to live within their multi-million dollar incomes? But according to Compassion International, more than six million children die due to malnutrition each year. Of the twenty-two countries where more than half the population is illiterate, fifteen are in Africa. And about one-third of the world's poor live in India. In the U.S. we have all of humanity's basic needs met, and yet we still want more. As American Christians, we've been given everything in Christ, but we're still not satisfied.

When Adam taught about Jesus' humility and Paul's obligation to preach to everyone, I struggled because I often focus on things that really don't matter. I believe I deserve something better. I feel like I'm entitled to something more. I think I don't owe anyone anything. But Jesus took everything He had (see Isaiah 6), and sacrificed it for a humble birth into a poor family. He had a short ministry which ended with death on a cross. The only thing we deserve is hell. (Romans 6:23) But Jesus humbly took that place for us and did it out of love. This is what spurs Paul on to share the Gospel.

Peter wrote, "What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole." (1 Peter 1:3-5 THE MESSAGE) To Peter "having it all" meant knowing Jesus. Do I believe I "have it all?" Or am I looking for something more?

### Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Jesus humbly came to Earth so that we could personally know God. How will I respond? Will I share it with others?

Do I have Jesus' humility? Do I live in a state of humility? Do I think of me first or others first?

When considering the contrast between Jesus on His throne (Isaiah 6) to Jesus on a cross, do I have a right to demand anything?

Can I serve with humility? Do I tell people where I serve to make myself look better? Can I serve without telling anyone?

In what areas of my life do I feel I deserve something? (My job, my family, my school?) What does the Bible say I deserve?

***This month's memory verse:*** "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." (2 Peter 1:3 TNIV)

***Additional Verses:*** Isaiah 6:1-5, John 12:41, Romans 1:14-15, 6:23, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 5:5

**Reminders:**

3.25 The Gathering at SHU at 10am "The Journey to the Cross"

***Radical Reminder:***

I will pray for the entire world.

I will read through the entire Word.

I will sacrifice my money for a specific purpose.

I will spend time in another context.

I will commit my life to a multiplying community.

How am I doing in each of these areas?