



THE WORLD NEEDS RESCUE

May 10, 2025

7:00 AM

Several years ago, I read the book *The Finest Hours*, the story of the greatest and most heroic Coast Guard rescue off the coast of Boston. It is the story of an oil tanker that splits in two and in a horrific blizzard, an officer is charged with taking a 36-foot boat out into the ocean. He went into the kitchen to ask three men to join him on this endeavor. The first two were easy yes's as they were good friends of his and veterans of the water. After that, the place went silent with everyone's heads turned down looking at the floor, not wanting to make eye contact. Finally, a seaman just passing through said, "Our job is to go out and save men's lives!" There was a short pause and then he said, "Isn't that what we signed up to do? Of course I will go."

Every local church goer has a choice to make. He can park in his usual spot in the church parking lot, make his way to his comfortable seat in his favorite row, watch a good service, chat with a few friends, and then go home. That choice makes for a nice, safe Sunday experience. Or he can throw himself into an adventure of being a 'Rescuer', discovering God's purpose for their life and living it. Life is too short, God's mission is too important, and what you can give is too significant. 'Isn't that what we signed up to do? Of course I will go.' In this lesson, we will examine what it means for us to get out of the pew and get into the game.

Warm-Up Question

1. A Disciple is defined as someone who is, "following after Jesus, becoming like Jesus and on mission for Jesus." What does it look like for you to be 'on mission' for Jesus?

BIBLE STUDY

Paul's ministry to the church in Thessalonica began during his second missionary journey and can be studied further in Acts 17:1-10. He came to them in 49 AD and this book was written just one year later in 50 AD. It is one of the first books in the New Testament. In this specific passage, Paul shares his heart with the church and provides a number of wonderful principles for influencing those around us.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

¹For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. ³For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

⁴But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. ⁶Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. ⁸So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

¹⁰You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, ¹²that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Their Conversion

¹³For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

2. Why do so many people not see themselves as Ambassadors for Jesus?

3. What are some key observations from the passage?

4. What do we learn about influencing others from this passage?

5. Share an application for them.

6. What strategies do you use to fight pride in your life? Joby suggests that worship is an important way to deal with our pride. What do you need to do to make your worship more effective at honoring God and waring against Satan?

7. Joby suggests that men who are isolated from regular fellowship are easy targets for Satan's attack schemes. As an example, he relates the story of the paralyzed man and his four faithful friends [Mark 2:1-12]. Do you have four names that you can list now? If you lack what Joby calls "corner totting brothers," how can you develop this type of relationship with some other men?

8. Joby suggests that lust is a common temptation faced by men, and that it requires a different strategy to avoid it. What are successful strategies that you use to flee this type of temptation?

PAUL'S PRAYER (Try praying this daily)

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his wills through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Wrap Up

For the past six weeks, you have been working together as a team to learn how to follow Christ and engage with one another and your community. You have looked at how to more effectively live out your faith in the world, to experience God's love at a deeper level, be led by the Spirit and impact those around you. Guys, it is one thing to know these truths, it is another to stand up and take action. You need to get in the game. The choice is yours. In order to put these things into practice, you will need the encouragement and camaraderie of your "band of brothers." So, make sure to stay together, cheer each other on, and fearlessly pursue Christ and the life He has for each of you.