

## Our Spiritual Footprints

Do you ever think about the impression someone has made on your life? Do you ever think about those pivotal moments in your life when someone prevented a wrong decision? Do you ever go to fix something and realize that the ingenuity and know-how you are about to use was taught by patient hands? People make a lasting impression on our lives. We quote them, we mimic their actions and we copy their behavior. We do this because something happened to cause us to value their opinion.

The world of science often talks about the carbon *footprints* each of us leaves behind. It is the idea that each human contributes to turning our globe more toxic every day. We use the earth's natural resources and expel our own set of greenhouse gases. The end result is the greenhouse effect that scientists claim is the cause of such a drastic change in our earth's climate.

It is my conviction that the spiritual climate of America is becoming toxic. For too long we have enjoyed the goodness of God's spiritual resources and in turn expelled them back into our society in selfishness and sin. The *spiritual footprints* we leave behind can make the message of salvation toxic to the next generation.

It is critically important that we make a conscious decision to reverse our toxic effect by seriously thinking about the *spiritual footprints* we are leaving behind in the hearts and lives of the people we meet. The point is that our *spiritual footprints* should cause the people we influence to be impressed with Jesus. It should cause them to see His church as a welcome place of refuge and His Bible as a valid guide for life. Help me pray that through this series of sermons we will all become conscious of the *spiritual footprints* we leave behind.

## **The Footprint of Esteem Sermon #1**

**Joshua 4:14** *On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.*

“In 1990 Robertson McQuilkin resigned from the presidency of Columbia Bible College in order to care for his ailing wife, Muriel, which he did until she died in 2003. His motivation was his belief that God has planned the strength and beauty of youth to be physical, but the strength and beauty of age to be spiritual. We gradually lose the strength and beauty that is temporary, so we’ll concentrate on developing the strength and beauty that lasts forever.”

*David Jeremiah*

### **How Would One Define Esteem?**

- It is an impression that you made upon someone that causes them to value your opinion and position in their life.
- It is the estimated value of your life that pays dividends into other lives when they take your advice and follow your testimony.
- It is the moral and lawful standard you live by, against which they judge your actions to be genuine and authentic.
- It is the love and kindness of your congenial spirit that attracts them to your person.
- It is your consistent and dependable behavior that has become a foundation to which they build their own integrity.
- Your esteem is the leverage they use when they give a defense for living a godly life.

### **I. Joshua gained esteem through courageous faith.**

#### **A. Joshua had the faith to believe in the equity of what God had done.**

**Joshua 2:10-11** *For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. (V.11) And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.*

## **The faithless testimony of the 10 disobedient spies:**

**Numbers 13:31** *But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

### **Why is the Spirit of Disobedience so Destructive to Your Esteem?**

- Because it causes you to relax your moral conscience and become involved in something that breaks the trust of those who esteem you.
- Because it reveals a vein of dishonesty that will cause you to lose the respect of those who esteem you.
- Because it plagues your life with guilt and shame, which in turn causes you to become impatient and irritable.
- Because it breaches the power of your testimony and leaves it weak and without authority.

“In today’s world there is no longer a fixed standard of right and wrong. We have substituted tolerance for truth, values for virtues, competency for character and compromise for courage.” *Adrian Rogers*

### **B. Joshua had the faith to believe in the energy of what God could do.**

**Numbers 14:7-9** *And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. (V.8) If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. (V.9) Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.*

## **II. Joshua gained esteem through contagious faith.**

### **A. The people believed God because of his contagious faith.**

**Joshua 2:11** *And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.*

**Joshua 2:23-24** *So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: (V.24) And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.*

**B. The people obeyed God because of his contagious faith.**

**Moses's words about Joshua:**

**Deuteronomy 1:37-38** *Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. (V.38) But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.*

**III. Joshua had gained esteem through conquering faith.**

**A. Joshua's esteem continued in the evidence of his deeds.**

**Joshua 11:15** *As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.*

“God’s people often have to engage in battle to take full possession of what God has promised. Today, this takes the form of spiritual warfare—fighting against the devil’s schemes to undermine God’s work.” *David Jeremiah*

**B. Joshua's esteem was confirmed even after his death.**

**Judges 2:7** *And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.*

## Love

### Sermon #2

**1 John 3:11-19** (11) *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (12) Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (13) Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (14) We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. (15) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (16) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (17) But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. (19) And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

“When it comes to this matter of love, there are four possible ‘levels of relationships,’ so to speak, on which one person can relate to another: murder (1 John 3:11-12), hatred (1 John 3:13-15), indifference (1 John 3:16-17), and Christian compassion (1 John 3:18-24). The first two are not Christian at all, the third is less than Christian and only the last is compatible with true Christian love.”

**Warren Wiersbe**

#### **I. Love is the truest characteristic of Christian life.**

##### **A. Love demonstrates the absolute presence of salvation.**

**1 John 4:10** *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (Have you ever caught yourself saying, “God should be more selective and discriminate in His love?” If so, think of all those who would have been left out.)*

##### **B. Loathing demonstrates the absence of a persistent salvation.**

**1 John 3:15** *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

“If you would measure your love for your father, you must measure your love for you brother.”  
*Adrian Rogers*

**John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,*

## II. Love is the truest characterization of Christ’s life.

### A. Christ is the perfect example of a valid love of sacrifice.

**1 John 3:16** *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:*

**John 15:13** *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

“My words and actions evidence Christ’s indwelling. My faith is expressed through works. I am a source of light in a dark world. Every moment of my life is a living moment with God. I am conscious of influencing those around me. Those who witness my life see Jesus.”

*David Jeremiah*

### B. A Christian’s proper response is given through voluntary sacrifice.

**1 John 3:16** *... and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

## III. Love is the truest commitment of the Christian life.

### A. We are to be cautious not to distort God’s Word.

**Notice the combination of love and giving.**

**1 John 3:17** *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

**James 2:15-16** *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (V.16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

### B. We are prompted to demonstrate God’s Word.

**Notice how love is revealed in truth and truth is revealed in gracious acts of kindness.**

**1 John 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

**Matthew 5:46-47** *For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (V.47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?*

## Compassion

### Sermon #3

**Luke 10:29-37** (29) *But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? (30) And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. (31) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (32) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. (33) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, (34) And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (35) And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. (36) Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? (37) And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

“In late summer 1997, people were jolted by two events that occurred less than a week apart: the deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa. What’s incredible is that their impact was remarkably similar. In a 1996 poll published by the London Daily Mail, Princess Diana and Mother Teresa were voted in first and second place as the world’s two most caring people.”

*John Maxwell*

“Compassion is my passion. I care . . . regardless. Others will know I am a Christian by my love.”

*David Jeremiah*

**Luke 10:27-29** *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. (V.28) And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. (V.29) But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?*

#### I. There is the need of compassion.

##### A. There are those who have been victimized.

**Luke 10:30** *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves,*

## **B. There are those who have been left vulnerable.**

**Luke 10:30** . . . *which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was indeed a dangerous one. They stripped him, humiliated him and left him. Garments in those days were exchanged and traded just like any other commodity. *Dr. Hampton Drum*

## **II. There is the negotiation of compassion.**

### **A. There is the negligence in the expression of compassion.**

**Luke 10:31-32** *And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (V.32) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*

**It is a common practice for bandits to use victims as bait and to entrap other passersby.**

“There are really three levels of life: there are those, like these thieves, who say, ‘What’s yours is mine and I’m going to take it from you.’ And then there are those, like the priest and the Levite, that say, ‘What’s mine is mine and I’m going to keep it.’ And then there are those, like the Good Samaritan, who would say, ‘It’s not really mine. I’m just a steward over it, and I will share with you whatever you need in the name of Almighty God because I love God.’” *Adrian Rogers*

### **B. There is knowledge in the expression of compassion.**

**Luke 10:33** *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,*

**John 4:9** *Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*

## **III. There is the nature of compassion.**

### **A. It is the nature of the compassionate to express care for the hurting.**

**Luke 10:34** *And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*

**Matthew 14:14** *And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

“Tough and tender. That’s the combination every woman wants in a man. A balanced blend, an essential mixture of strong stability plus consideration, tact, understanding, and compassion. A better world is gentleness . . . but for some peculiar reason, that idea seems alien to the masculine temperament.” **Charles Swindoll**

### **B. It is the nature of the compassionate to explore a cure for the hurting.**

**Luke 10:35** *And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*

#### **Ten Acts of Mercy the Samaritan Showed to the Injured Man**

- The word Samaritan describes his nationality. It demonstrates a social hurdle that he had to cross to help the man.
- “He had compassion on Him”- It demonstrates an attitude of sympathy that was characteristic of the Samaritan’s care.
- “Went to him”- It demonstrates the willingness of the Samaritan to get involved.
- “Bound up his wounds” It is an act of first aid that would prevent further injury and reduce the chances of excessive bleeding and infection.
- “Pouring in oil and wine” - Wine was used as a disinfectant and the oil was used to soothe the burning of the wounds.
- “Set him on his own beast” - An unselfish act to allow the wounded man to take his ride. In all probability, this would cause the Samaritan to have to walk.
- “Brought him to an inn” - He brought him to a new location of safety and comfort.
- “Took care of him”- He gave him personal attention even though he was exhausted from walking. He felt the need to nurse the man himself.

- “Take care of him” - He provided for the man’s long-term care.
- “I will repay thee” - He relieved the wounded man of his financial burden so he could focus on recovery.

**Luke 10:36-37** *Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? (V.37) And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

## Relationships

### Sermon #4

**Psalms 15:1-5** *(1) Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? (2) He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. (3) He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. (4) In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. (5) He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

### Blessed Anonymity

There is a name above all names—  
Let mine be lost in His.  
Hide me in His crimson heart,  
O secret way of bliss.

Blessed anonymity,  
Count my life but loss.  
Jesus, the One and Only,  
Tread over me dear cross.

One life alone worth finding  
Nail mine unto the tree.  
Till Jesus ever shining  
Is all beheld in me.

Bring Him forth each day I live  
And leave me in the tomb.  
I see no other glory  
Make not the smallest room.

**Beth Moore**

### **I. We are to grow in the purity of our relationships.**

#### **A. We should develop relationships that are concerned with walking rightly.**

**Psalms 15:2** *He that walketh uprightly,*

**Job 1:1** *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF BEING BLAMELESS:** a person who has such moral character that no charge can be brought against him.

**B. We should develop relationships that are concerned with working righteousness.**

**Psalms 15:2** *He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.*

It was the devil's intention to drive Job to sin in the aftermath of the worst day of his life. He was unsuccessful.

**Job 1:22** *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

### **Develop Relationships with Those Who Know How to Pull Down Blessings**

“If you want to pull down blessings from above and impact the world around you, you have to be surrendered to God's will, approaching life on your knees, bowing in humble reverence, and dependence on Him. Again, one of the reasons we're so worn out from life is that our knees aren't!”  
*David Jeremiah*

**II. We are to grow in the purpose of our relationships.**

**A. Our purpose is not to be one of contention.**

**Psalms 15:3** *He that backbiteth not with his tongue,*

**Psalms 41:6** *And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF ONE** who doesn't slander the name of anyone.

**B. Our purpose is not to be one of condemnation.**

**Psalms 15:3** . . . *nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF ONE WHO DOESN'T MEDDLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS**, nor does he cast slurs on his fellow man.

**III. We are to grow in the perception of our relationships.**

**A. We should use discretion in choosing noble relationships.**

**Psalms 15:4** *In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF ONE WHO USES DISCRETION** concerning the individuals he endorses.

**Ephesians 5:11-12** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. (V.12) For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF ONE THAT DOES NOT GO BACK ON HIS WORD** even if it is to his own harm.

**B. We should use discretion to create honest relationships.**

**Psalms 15:5** *He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF LENDING TO THE NEEDY WITHOUT CHARGING THEM INTEREST.**

**A CHARACTER QUALITY OF ONE WHO WILL NOT ACCEPT A BRIBE TO ACCUSE THE INNOCENT.**

## Salvation

### Sermon #5

**Acts 16:22-34** (22) *And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. (23) And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: (24) Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. (25) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (26) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. (27) And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. (28) But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (29) Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, (30) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (32) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. (33) And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. (34) And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*

**Psalms 126:5-6** *They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. (V.6) He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

- Propelled by passion and constrained by the love of Christ, the apostle Paul kept going to the very end of his life.
- Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, prayed, “Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.”
- During the Great Depression, missionary J. G. Morrison spoke to his Nazarene denomination, pleading with them and asking, “Can’t you do just a little more?”

#### **I. There is the circumstance in which we are called to share Christ.**

##### **A. The circumstance often presents a conflict to the sharing of Christ.**

**Acts 16:17-18** *The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. (V.18) And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. (This woman was being exploited by her master.)*

**B. The circumstance often produces a struggle for the one who shares Christ.**

**Acts 16:22-24** *And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. (V.23) And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: (V.24) Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

**II. There is the confidence in which we are called to share Christ.**

**A. We show confidence in Christ when we praise Him in difficult times.**

**Acts 16:25** *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

“It is easy to sing when we can read the notes by daylight; but, the skillful singer is he who can sing when there is not a ray of light to read by . . . Songs in the night come only from God; they are not in the power of men.”  
*Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

**B. We show confidence in Christ when we present Him to difficult people.**

**Acts 16:26-28** *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. (V.27) And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. (V.28) But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*

**The Apostles were Jailed Because of a Trumped Up Charge.**

- They could have said: “We don’t deserve to be here in the first place. We’re leaving!”
- They could have said: “It’s a divine act of God and He means for us to be set free. Let’s go!”

### III. There is the conversion that comes when we share Christ.

#### A. Salvation is contagious when our concern speaks to their soul.

**Acts 16:28-29** *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (V.29) Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,*

#### How Did Their Actions Reveal Christ's Love?

- They chose not to retaliate in anger but chose to sing praises to the Lord instead.

**Acts 16:25** *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:*

- They chose to be a positive influence on all the other prisoners.

**Acts 16:25** *. . . and the prisoners heard them.*

**Acts 16:28** *. . . for we are all here.*

- They chose to have compassion on the prison keeper.

**Acts 16:28** *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm:*

#### B. Salvation is contagious when our compassion speaks to their soul.

“Times of reluctant service have taught me that when we do things we are not naturally inclined to do, we come away changed by the experience—and that is never truer than when we serve. Why? Because God has established a timeless, unchanging relationship between being a blessing and receiving a blessing.” *David Jeremiah*

**Acts 16:30-34** *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (V.31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (V.32) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. (V.33) And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. (V.34) And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*