

The Essence of the Navigators

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. Jerry shares his testimony.

B. Jerry shares his life verses.

- 1) In part, so that the staff will know him and where he is coming from better.
- 2) In part, because he realized that his life verses describe the Navigator ministry.

II. The Navigators should be teachers of the Word of God. (Ezra 7:10)

A. Ezra was a priest, a teacher of the law of God, and a man learned in matters that concerned Israel.

B. Everything that the Navigators do should revolve around teaching the scriptures. (Matthew 28:20; John 13:33; Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-12)

1. Teaching takes many different forms.

a) Paul taught generosity not only with his words but also in the way he lived. (Acts 20:35)

C. In order to be successful teachers like Ezra, there are several things we must do. (Ezra 7:10)

1. We should get our hearts clear so we can be devoted to God and the study of the scriptures.

2. We must study the scriptures. (1 Peter 1:10)

a) Our attitude should be intently and engrossed in our study of the scriptures.

b) We must do our best to find the truth of what the writer is actually saying.

c) Be open to new truth, even if it happens to rattle your doctrinal cage. Many of us are stuck in the habit of seeing only certain things in scripture, but if we search intently and be open, God will give us those new truths.

d) Use study tools such as commentaries after you've done your initial study. (2 Timothy 2:15)

e) We need both dependence on prayer and diligence to study the word of God and gain insight into it. (Proverbs 2:1-4)

3. We must observe and practice the Word of God. (Romans 2:22; James 3:1)

4. Once we have done all these things, then we may teach by setting an example. (Acts 20:35)

D. There are a couple things to remember if you are teaching the Word of God publically in any setting.

1. Prepare thoroughly. (1 Peter 4:11)

2. Speak with conviction.

3. Thoughts from Dale Carnegie on public speaking.

a) Be thoroughly familiar with your subject. Know a lot more than you teach.

b) Be convinced that your audience desperately needs to know the material you teach.

c) Have a consuming desire to communicate your material to them.

E. Ezra was an administrator, a man of faith and prayer as well as a man of integrity and accountability. (Ezra 8:15-20, 21-23, 24-34)

D. Ezra was an excellent intercessor. (Ezra 9)

III. The basis on which the Navigators do ministry is grace. (Ephesians 3:8)

A. We have the privilege of taking the gospel of all nations. We did not deserve or earn it.

B. Grace is unearned, undeserved favor. (Romans 11:6)

C. Grace comes from a sovereign God who is free to give or to withhold according to His pleasure. He is not obligated to us. So we should not compare our calling to other people's callings or try to earn rewards in ministry from God. (Romans 9:21; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Isaiah 43:4; John 12:24)

IV. The motivation and endurance for the Navigator ministry is God's worthiness. (Revelation 4:11; Revelation 5)

A. The basis and sustaining of our lives needs to come from an awareness that God is worthy of whatever He asks us to do.

Application questions:

1. What are several things we must do to be effective in teaching the scriptures? Which of those are easy for you? Which are challenging? How can you grow in those areas?

2. Why is it important to know that whatever ministry God has placed in your life comes from grace?

3. Are there some things that are distracting you from being fully devoted to God and to studying the Bible? What are some practical steps you can take to remove distractions from your life? Are you willing to remove distractions from your life in order to devote more time and focus to studying the Word?
