

LIVES TOUCHING LIVES

1 Thessalonians 2:1–13

Every Christian should give his or her life to others.

The Gospel doesn't just move through words; it moves through lives.

1. DISCIPLE-MAKERS RESPOND COURAGEOUSLY. *NO FEAR*

Verses 1–2 “For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.”

1. DISCIPLE-MAKERS RESPOND COURAGEOUSLY. *NO FEAR*

Matthew 24:13–14 says: “But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations”

Courage doesn't come from fearlessness; courage comes from conviction.

Lives touching lives requires courage.

2. DISCIPLE-MAKERS LIVE TRANSPARENTLY. *NO MASKS*

Verses 3–5 Paul continues: “For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”

2. DISCIPLE-MAKERS LIVE TRANSPARENTLY.

NO MASKS

- **Their message was true.**
 - *Our message wasn't wandering.*
- **Their motives were pure.**
 - *Impurity was not what drove them. The Gospel confronts and transforms it.*
- **Their methods were honest.**
 - *Truth does not need deception to accomplish God's work.*

***“Come close enough to see how great
Christ is, even in my weakness.”***

3. DISCIPLE-MAKERS SERVE HUMBLY. *NO MAIN CHARACTERS*

Verses 6–8 “Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others...But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

“Come with me. Let’s follow Jesus together.”

4. DISCIPLE-MAKERS SERVE SACRIFICIALLY. *NO SELFISHNESS*

Verses 9–12 “For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day...You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you”

“Come with me. Let’s follow Jesus together.”

4. DISCIPLE-MAKERS SERVE SACRIFICIALLY. *NO SELFISHNESS*

- Love always costs something.
- Lives touching lives.
- You don't have to know what God is going to do with someone to faithfully love them today.

THE RESULT:

A LIFE TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

Verses 12–13 “We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

“Come with me. Let’s follow Jesus together.”

THE RESULT:

A LIFE TRANSFORMED BY THE WORD

- The Word is at work in you! The Word of God.
- “God, change me through Your Word.”

*THE GOSPEL — BEFORE WE GAVE
OURSELVES, CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF.*

THREE QUESTIONS FOR HARVEST

1. WHO IS POURING INTO ME?

- Don't become so experienced that nobody can speak into your life.

2. WHO AM I POURING INTO?

- Who has access to my life?

3. WHAT AM I GIVING THEM?

- Am I teaching them to depend upon Christ?

“BECAUSE YOU HAD BECOME VERY DEAR TO US”