

Leaving good foot prints on the trails of life

I Peter 5:1-7

Intro: The Lord Jesus left very distinct foot prints in this world while he was here. He wants us to leave some of our own while we are here? He wants us to make a difference in our world for His glory and for the betterment of mankind. The question is, how can we do this?

From this passage we find three ways to improve our impact or leave our foot prints as we walk through this life. If you want to leave good foot prints we need to follow the same advice given to the elders here in this passage

I. Start serving (serve or shepherd V 2) (Not lord V 3)

1 . Matthew 20:20-28 If you want to be a great Christian, be a great servant like Jesus notice what V 28 says *For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."*

Thought: If you want to leave good and big footprints as you go through life, leave a servants footprints.

2. In this first part of Chpt. 5, he talks the elders who were servants in the church and gives them advice or direction about serving. First he tells them

1) Choose Desire over Duty. (Notice the phrase V 2 voluntarily, not under compulsion)

Serve, not because we must, but because we are willing. If we want to have a significant impact on people, we have to change all those "should dos" (to) "want to do's ". How do we change those duties into desires? We won't, if we only say I know I should, but we can if we will simply say I want to and then doing it. **Thought:** Of all creation, only man can say yes or no to God.

Changing all those duties into opportunities will take willingness on our part. We all want to be remembered, and leaving good clear foot prints is one sure way of others remembering where we walked

2) Choose Giving over Getting. 5:2b notice the words, (Not for sordid gain)

Only seeking to get in life can sometimes get us into trouble. Ask not "What can I get from those around me" but rather "What good things can I give that will ultimately leave a big footprint in their life?"

Thought: The people in my life that I remember most were not the rich ones who stayed away from me or those folks who never had time for me. The ones I remember were the poorer ones who served me and in the process left a big old footprint on my heart.

Remember, we only have what we give away. The principle for that is found in Matthew 10: 38,39 *If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it*

Therefore, serve because you want to, not because you have to.

3) Choose being an Example over being in Control.

Greatness lies not in trying to be somebody but in trying to help somebody. There is no shortage of people wanting to be boss today but you make a lasting impact or leave good big footprints by showing people how to do things, not telling them to do things.

The size of our footprints is measured by how many people are behind us, following our steps and example. The power to make a real difference is not in our words and ordering people around, it's in our example.

Let our example be written in large enough letters that the world can always easily read it. Or we could say it like this, Let our footprints be large enough that people can follow them to Christ. Authority does not make a person a leader; it only gives them the opportunity to be one through their example. That's where we leave the footprints

II. Stay humble V 5

The key to leaving real footprints on the trails of life is not found in how many people bow and wash your feet but rather how many feet you bow down and wash. Note the example of the Master John 13:1-15. Learn to be great at being humble. That doesn't mean give up our ambition, but let humility manage that ambition.

True greatness is depending upon God. That's when we leave big footprints on our walk through life. The branches that bear the most fruit hang the lowest.

III. Stop worrying V 7

Worriers don't make much impact on this world or leave many footprints because they are afraid to take a step. So stop worrying. The word "cast" means to throw it upon somebody else. Not just to throw it out, **but to give it to God**, and let Him carry the weight of worry.

We will leave some mighty big footprints in the lives of others when we are able to help them learn to leave their concerns with the only one who can answer the need. Lets learn to leave the footprints of prayer Philippians 4:6 *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.*

If we leave the footprints of a heavenly vision the rest of life will be tolerable while we go through it. Colossians 3:1-4

Well we are leaving some type of tracks in this life but I wonder if we are leaving good ones for others to follow to the Saviour? We can , if we will start serving, stay humble, and stop worrying.

In closing, have you ever met the one who always served, who was always humble and who never worried. If you haven't why not read these next few lines, do what they say and have that special one, Jesus, to walk along with through this life with you. If you do, your footprints will lead others to the one who walks with you.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord.

I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)