

The Outdoorsman: Weekend Warriors

Review of last week

***Outdoorsmen have specific characteristics:

1. They've become something different than what they started

***2. Every man has something in them that makes them want to be more of an outdoorsman.

Every man wants to connect with the outdoors in some way.

***3. They had help becoming what they are.

Finish up with Followers Fish

*****And we discovered that just as fishing in the natural is simple, fishing for Men and Women is simple.**

Based on John 3:16

1. God Loved

2. God Gave

3. We Believe

4. We Receive

*** **Weekend Warriors**

The typical weekend warrior was some form of athlete in HS or college and now sits at a desk job all day long, 5 days a week with little aerobic activity. Then on the weekend, he or she tries to fit in all of their sport related love into one day, usually getting hurt in the process.

And all of us have had those weekend warrior moments when we were faced with a similar situation that we had when we were in college or HS and you get that glint in your eye, your loved ones are scream nooooooo and we foolishly bound into whatever it is, knowing that this isn't going to end well.

Story of playing basketball at Sentara. Mike is 10 years younger, 6 inches shorter.

That was how I met my little friend Glucosamine.

The goal of the Christian walk is transformation

*****Rom 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

metamorphoo

If it wasn't then Christianity would become a portable, changeable philosophy that is ultimately empty in its delivery and for some of you here today, that's exactly what your experience with the church has become.

The Outdoorsman: Weekend Warriors

And that's because you were convinced that you needed a savior because you needed it to get to heaven and you didn't want to burn in hell, but nobody answered for you this question ... What about now? What about my life now?

For some, it meant to completely give up anything fun and enjoyable.
And for some of you, you were told that Jesus came to give you life and give it to the full and you believed a load of bull that said if you'll be a Christ follower and give your money in the offering that you'd have more money, a better job, a better car, a better house, a better lifestyle.

The problem with this scenario/belief system/philosophy is that this isn't a transformed life, this is just the same life with more stuff.

Now if we're not careful, we all can begin to take on a weekend warrior mentality when it comes to God. We begin to view church as just another weekend activity that is no more relevant to our lives than the Sunday afternoon game, race, or nap.

We begin to see our relationship with God exercised only on the weekend and we become stagnant in our growth.

And our mantra becomes this instead:
Trust in the Lord with some of my heart on Sunday, but lean wholly on my own understanding
Acknowledge him in the ways where I think He's relevant and hope that He pulls me out of the mess I make of my life.

And we fall into sort of the Psuedo-transformation state.

Possible Pseudo-Transformation definition and application from Matt 23 1-29

Matt 23

- 1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples,
- 2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;
- 3 therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them.
- 4 "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

*****First symptom of Pseudo Transformation** is Demanding obedience from others, but not practicing what they preach; burdening other people with the pursuit of exhaustive, external rules and practices yet not helping them to bear the burden.

Matt 23

- 5 "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.
- 6 "They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- 7 and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

The Outdoorsman: Weekend Warriors

8 “But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.

*****The 2nd symptom** is doing their spiritual duties so that other people will notice and honor them; expecting others to honor them; taking pride in their knowledge, position, and influence.

Matt 23

13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

14 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

*****The 3rd symptom** is making it difficult for other people to enter (and in some cases preventing people from entering) God’s kingdom; refusing to enter the kingdom of heaven themselves.

Matt 23

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

*****The 4th symptom** is following the letter of the law but violating the spirit of the law such as by tithing every little thing to God, yet neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Matt 23

24 “You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

26 “You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.

28 “So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,

*****The final symptom** is being preoccupied with appearing to be spiritual; cleaning up the outside but doing nothing to clean the mess on the inside; being hypocritical.

See, Christianity is about true transformation. And if you’ve fallen into the weekend warrior mentality and you see the symptoms of pseudo-transformation in your life, you have to change your mindset.

The Outdoorsman: Weekend Warriors

See the weekend warrior misses the glory days of sport and decides to try really hard. And there's this mentality that if they try harder that it'll make them better.

And this is the trap we fall into as Christians. We decide if I just try harder to be a good person, that'll make me better. And while that may work on some microscopic level, ultimately we are still the same as we started.

Transformation doesn't come from trying harder. It comes from training with purpose.

Just like an athlete training for a marathon, trying harder during the race is not going to produce the desired results. Training for the race is what produces the results.

***Matthew 11

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. That is how God works with your training. One small piece of your life at a time.

***Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Transformation comes from the renewing of your mind. The Holy Spirit does the renewing from the outside in with study and prayer, and from the inside out by breaking the hard heart through repentance and humility.

***If we're not careful, we will fall into a weekend warrior mentality and like this person here we will spend our life trying to fit God into something we make, instead of letting God be the main ingredient of our life.