

Talk It Over

Stay Positive
(Week 5)
Draft; Don't Drift

SMALL TALK

1. Do the current circumstances make you feel weaker and more vulnerable or do you feel like this time has caused you to grow stronger?
2. Can someone who heard Sunday's message explain what is meant by the title, "Draft; Don't Drift"?

VIEWPOINT

3. **READ Isaiah 53:3-6.** Who is "the man of sorrows" (53:3)? Why is he called this?
4. **READ John 15:10-11; 17:13.** What did Jesus pray that we would receive in full measure? How does someone experience this? What does it mean to have his joy in us?
5. **READ Hebrews 12:2.** What gave Jesus the motivation to be "the man of sorrows" who endured the cross? Can "a man of sorrows" be full of joy!?
6. **READ 2 Corinthians 1:5.** When we are "drafting" closely to Jesus what two things do we experience with Jesus?

GETTING PERSONAL

7. Have you been drifting or drafting? In what way?
8. How do you find your way back to a joy that carries you through the negative stuff around us?

MAKING PROGRESS

9. One of our core statements is: "Love God Wholeheartedly." What do you think about the idea that it's not what you do that makes work meaningful, but it's who you do it for? How do you think embracing this mindset would impact your life?

July 5, 2020

Stay Positive (week 5)

Draft, Don't Drift!

Thank you for joining us today, whether you are watching this at home, or from somewhere else, perhaps from a gathered group together somewhere. Thank you for joining us for another episode of Stay Positive.

There is no doubt in my mind that our current climate and circumstances challenges our ability to stay positive. Maybe you are not having any problem staying positive, but I am. So, this message is for me. Listen in, maybe you will find it to be helpful to you too!

During these challenges you will either grow stronger or you will become weaker. You will either be more disciplined or less disciplined. You will draft or you will drift. Let me explain.

DRAFTING

Have you ever watched a bicycle race? Have you ever noticed how close they ride to each other? The reason for this is riders are not just riding for speed, they are conserving energy. It's more like a chess match to see who can conserve the most at the right times, by drafting each other. The strongest rider does not always win. If you draft the person in front of you closely, you can save up to 30% of your energy.

Here's another drafting example. I saw a sedan on the highway last week with a bed mattress catching wind like a sail, folded at the rope in the middle, with the front end of the mattress straight up. Can you imagine how much gas mileage dropped with the wind drag!?

What would have happened if that Sedan pulled in behind a big 18 wheel tractor trailer Semi Truck? First the mattress will flop back down. Then if the Sedan drafts close enough to that truck (don't do this, by the way it is dangerous; I'm only illustrating a point) it will actually be pulled along by the truck. I believe that the Sedan's gas mileage will actually be better in that position than out alone on the highway without a mattress! (I've never done an experiment to prove this. I just think that will be true based on what I think is true about drafting a moving object).

Here is my point. During difficult times, you are making choices all the time. These choices usually go in one of two directions. During very difficult times you will choose from two basic ways to deal with the resistance and difficulty. You will either, 1) work to get closer to Jesus, and draft behind him or 2) you will take your foot off the gas, then all the resistance is on you, and soon you drift away, with Jesus no longer even within your view.

A CHOICE BEFORE US TODAY

1) DRAFT behind our savior's pioneering leadership in grace, kindness, and the power of love, or 2) DRIFT into the negativity lane with the masses who are experiencing a lot of darkness.

Today we explode all the easy formula's for staying positive. This is a deeper message today.

So, let's explode the "easy formula" with **two truths in tension**.

I. **Jesus was a man of SORROWS full of JOY**

The first truth of this tension was written in prophecy centuries before Jesus walked on earth.

*Isaiah 53:3 (NIV) He was despised and rejected by mankind, **a man of suffering**, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low*

esteem.

The word for “Suffering” here is translated, “pain, suffering, sorrow”.

Many translations have “a man of sorrows”. Now let’s jump to the tension of how he is not just a man of sorrows but a man full of life and joy that all the crowds followed.

John 15:10-11 (NIV) {10} If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. {11} I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

He was the source of the joy of heaven. He wants to give us deep, and powerful joy. It is a complete joy. Nothing lacking in this joy. It is a joy to be had deep within. Jesus’ joy which he had, he wanted us to have His Joy inside us.

So....What was Jesus’ joy that he deeply desired would be “in us”?

John 17:13 (NIV) “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

If he has so much joy, why is Jesus referred to as the man of suffering and sorrow in Isaiah 53:3? For the answer we only need to read the next verse and discover that

II. What? How? Why? Resolving the tension.

A. What: He took up OUR SORROWS

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV) {4} Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. {5} But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

B. How: He could do this because of JOY

*Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

What was the joy set before him? Heaven? Exaltation? Certainly. Approval from the Father? Sure. But there was far more. Why he do it?

C. Why: To give US Joy

Jesus' knew the full love of the Father, unhindered by sin, this was a deep and abiding joy, and something he wanted so deeply for us. He deeply wanted us to experience the fullness of that joy he knew, the full blessing of God shining on us, a joy unencumbered by sin and darkness.

God cannot bless sin. So, God provided a way to bless us instead of judge us. God made a way for us, and that way has a name. His name is Jesus.

It was because of Joy he could become the man of suffering! The man of sorrow.

Through his victory Jesus began a kingdom of joy and love.

Now let's talk about that kingdom. We follow a King.

III. We follow in his JOY and SACRIFICIAL LOVE

What was Jesus' full measure of joy that he deeply desired would be "within us"? The Spirit of God, and the fullness of his Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

DRAFT-Don't Drift.

*2 Corinthians 1:5 (NIV) For just as **we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ**, so also **our comfort abounds through***

Christ.

DRAFT-Don't Drift.

As we follow Jesus. We choose to draft behind his Joy AND his sufferings. We fill ourselves with Joy yes, but we follow his orders. We deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow him. We draft in his sufferings, as well as his joy. We abundantly share in both his sufferings and his joys!

DRAFT-Don't Drift....

STAGECOACH

Back when the west being settled, the stagecoach was a common means of transportation. Some stagecoach companies offered three classes — even though the passengers sat in the same small compartment.

What was the difference? According to *True West Magazine*...

- First class passengers rode all the way.
- Second class passengers had to get out and walk on steep grades.
- Third class passengers not only had to walk, they also had to help push the carriage up the hills.

Jesus never called us to be “first class riding in comfort” but members of the Body of Christ drafting in the life and mission of our savior, the author and pioneer of our faith. We experience the overflow from his sorrows and sufferings because we care for a hurting world. And the only way we can do that is if we DRAFT in the JOY of Jesus.

- ***When we follow our CALLING, we DRAFT!***
- ***When we follow our COMFORT, we DRIFT!***

I will do more than go along for the ride, like a dog with his head out the window, tongue flapping in the wind!

WHILE DRAFTING CLOSELY TO JESUS

I can do more than watch and listen on Sunday; I can participate with Christ in his Mission.

WHILE DRAFTING CLOSELY TO JESUS

I can do more than be sad; I can care.

I can do more than care; I can help.

I can do more than believe; I can practice what I believe.

I can pledge my faithful allegiance in obedience to my King's commands!

WHILE DRAFTING CLOSELY TO JESUS

I can do more than be fair; I can be kind.

I can do more than forgive; I can love and accept and be FOR this person even though he or she is against me.

I can do more than dream; I can accomplish God's purposes for my life.

I can do more than teach; I can inspire as people see it isn't about me, it's all about my Lord Jesus Christ.

I can do more than give; I can serve.

I can do more than live; I can grow.

I can do more than suffer; I can triumph. No! I will triumph! I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus my Lord!

You can too. You can receive the full measure of his Joy.

DRAFT-Don't Drift!