

Recap of 2/20/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 16:3-10

1. (continued from previous [see 2/13/22 recap] message – six things we learn about Timothy).

-He came from a mixed family. His father was Greek, his mother Jewish. His father had prevented him from being circumcised which would have been a stumbling block to his ministry among Jews, so Paul circumcised him to remove this roadblock to his ministry (salvation was not the issue).

-He had genuine concern for others, he was others-centered not self-centered (Phil. 2:3-24).

-1 & 2 Timothy were written to him by Paul when Timothy pastored the church at Ephesus. Included were Pastoral instructions, instructions on church structure, leadership and conduct.

-He was gifted but needed encouragement to use his gifts (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).

2. The person God uses is:

-one who is saved (by grace through faith)

-one who knows the Word of God

-one who knows what it is to live by faith

-one who is teachable

-one who is willing to be used of God

-one who is genuinely concerned for the interests of Jesus Christ in others.

3. “Sound doctrine, not merely good technique, lies beneath all God-given church growth.” (William Baker)

4. Actions steps to discerning God’s direction in our lives:

-Cultivate a deepening relationship with God (Phil 2:12,13; Romans 12:1,2)

-Pursue holiness (a moral lifestyle)

-Pursue a humble spirit (expect God to overrule (James 4:13).

-Seek good counsel & good counselors (who are mature, growing in the Word, praying)

-Recognize our emotional cycles and bring them under the discipline of the Holy Spirit (meditate on the Word, wait on the Lord, practice doing what is right).

-Be looking for God’s guidance and be ready to obey

-ask good questions (Is this decision consistent with the Word of God/character of God? Will this decision lead me closer to God or interfere with worship and service, is it wise James 1:5)?

-Pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding (Col 1:9; 1 thess. 5:16-18)

-In light of the above, make decisions, confident of God’s leading (Prov. 16:9, 33)