

Torrey 1998 What Motivates You? [Friday]

By Ron Mehl

Speaker 1:

Good morning, Biola. Let's dance and worship the Lord together with We Will Glorify. [singing 00:00:17]

[audience applauds] [singing 00:06:18]

Speaker 2:

While the audio visual specialists are rearranging the platform, let me bring up two individuals that you haven't met, but that you know, they're going to help us with the special presentation. The first is Barbara Miller, who is the new director of student ministry at Biola University. The second is Mandy Beth Wale's All Life from Baylor University. Now, a student at Talbot, they're going to come. And as they come, I'd like to ask Ron Mehl and Gordon Kirk if they will come and then I'll have the ladies make a little presentation. Barbara is not prepared with the speech, but I want her to say something nice anyway about Ron Mehl right now.

Barbara Miller:

Well, it's been a privilege to have Ron Mehl here. I've known him for about three years now, and he's one of my very favorite people when presented with this is a Biola University extra large sweatshirt.

Ron Mehl:

[laughs] All right. Thank you.

Mandy:

And this is one for Gordon Kirk also, and we appreciate all of all of his words from the Lord that he's given us this week and taking time out of his schedule. So they can represent Biola.

Gordon Kirk:

Thank you.

Speaker 2:

Mandy is from Texas, so I'll translate, she said, we think that he's a wonderful guy. Thank you.

Well done. She threatened me and said, I'm not going to talk with again.

Great. Wonderful week. We praise God for his faithfulness for his faithful servants before. And we can brag about our school, a school that sets the distinctive where we take time aside for the clear teaching and application of the word speaker's teach and have illustrations that apply. But it's the Holy Spirit of God. Isn't that who who speaks to our hearts? He has mine scuffed my shoes. I hope he's done the same with you. We hope in the weeks to come. For those of you to whom the Lord has spoken, we hope that you'll do two things. One, of course, that you just continue to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord. Secondly, if you are of a mind to in ministry moments for the remainder of the semester, we'd like to have some of you. If you'd come by my office and share with me, we would like to schedule you in to share with the student body, with the spirit of God has done and is doing in your life. In a few moments I'm going to pray. And then I used to call him the B-K-S-A, but it isn't just simply the Korean students. I think we've mixed some that anyway, they're going to come they're going to continue to lead us in worship. And then, of course, the schedule will be the same with Ron Mehl, following with the preaching of the word before they come or even as they come. Let's bow in prayer. Shall we?

Our father once again. We thank you. And we praise you for your faithfulness in our life. Thank you for the privilege that we have to know you, to love you and serve you. Thank you for the things we've learned that we don't have to ask you to be here. Thank you, Father. That you're here, all of you and all of your presence. You're here now and we thank you and we praise you for what you've done. Thank you for your service. Thank you for the opportunity that we have to continue to worship, make us our father, faithful heroes and doers of the word because we want to go deep in the love of Jesus Christ. Answer our prayer, Lord, and we pray that you'll keep our hearts open in Jesus strong name. We pray. And all God's people said, Ame.

All right, the team will come and they're going to lead us. And some continue to worship. Then unannounced, Ron Mehl will come and preach the word.

This morning, we'll sing about this thing more about God's love, and it is very appropriate for the Torrey conference and [singing 00:13:12] Lord God as we come to worship you, Lord, I just pray that you'd be focused in on your love, the love that you have for us Father. As we focus in on your love and the love that you have for us, Lord. What can we do but worship you Father ? What can we do, sing songs out to you to lift up our hands, our voices, our hearts to you, Lord. With everything that's within us, just cry out to you. Thank you, Lord, for the love that you have for us. And we have expressed on so many different ways Father God. And father, at this time, as we just looked at our body worship Lord, I just pray that you. Each motion father got this song. It means that the song Father, be pleasing to you, Lord. Look deep into our hearts, not just on the outside, but on the inside. You'll be pleased. And you'll be moved by what you see and what you hear this morning. I just thank you. [singing 00:26:24]

Ron Mehl:

Well, I want to just take a second here, if I can, and and just say how how privileged I felt as well to to be with you. Thanks so much for inviting me and adding me to this very important week. I'd like you to take your Bible this morning, if you would, in turn to the book of Ephesians, Chapter 5, Ephesians Chapter 5.

I am sure that most of you that remember the story of the ugly toad and the ugly toad who is actually a prince, a handsome at that very, very handsome prince who was the recipient of this kiss from the spell of the Wicked Witch. And all that he really needed was just a kiss from a beautiful maiden. I mean, that was all it would take. Here he is now confined into the form and shape of this little toad. And this handsome prince now can't get out unless he's kissed. You've all heard the story a million times. I found myself, however, asking, I mean, what in the world would it take for a beautiful woman, a beautiful maiden, to kiss, you know, a toad? It'd be a little work for me, I think. I mean, you you certainly have to look at the bulging eyes and the words and, you know, the bumps and the occasional ribbit, ribbit, ribbit. And and she leans down and she kisses the toad and and this toad becomes a prince.

I know there's no way that you could even begin to get excited about kissing a prince until you did something. And I, I think that's pretty what it would take. It probably would take a beautiful maiden to kind of lean over and and try and have a conversation or at least relate to this little toad. Maybe somehow in that conversation you could pick up maybe there's something more in there than just a toad with bumps and a few ribbits here and there. And in that relationship, it

would take the time. You'd have to take the time, you'd have to get close enough, take the time to spend time with this toad to know what's really in there.

And yesterday, you know, as I spoke, I talked about the fact that the people are always in a hurry and the disciples were always in a hurry. Mark Chapter 6, the Lord himself, when he fed the five thousand. When he was all done. The Bible says that the disciples hearts were hardened, which is to suggest that the Lord really wasn't he wasn't so much talking about the fact that I can do miracles and I can feed five thousand people. The message was, is that he dearly loves and has compassion for people who have need. But the Bible says that the disciples were always in a hurry. And if you get in a hurry in your life or ministry, you'll always develop a hard heart. You always will.

You move by people, you move beyond people, you miss, people you don't get to touch the people the Lord's really intended, and purposed for you and me. And that's what I want you to turn here to Ephesians Chapter 5, because I wanted you just to notice several things this morning about the love of God, which is the way I'd like to conclude my portion of our time with you. And and I want to just see for simple things out of Ephesians Chapter 5 that tell us about the love of God and this love that you and I ought to know and to grow in and grow deeper in. And the first is found here in Ephesus, chapter 5, verse 1. Be therefore, followers of God as dear children. It really means that that we ought to be mimics. It means that we are to be imitators of God. It means that I come to the place as a book of Ephesians. And Paul says, would you do this? Would you make a decision to be a follower of God, commit your life to following after him, to imitate him, to mimic his life?

I got on a plane months ago. I was going to Chicago and there's a little boy sitting in front of me. He stood up on the seat and he's looking over the bag. He's just a little tyke of a guy. And the moment he looked at me, he looked over the seat. I smiled at him and he smiled at me. And when I smiled, I thought, what a cute little guy. And I said, hi. He said, hi. I said, What's your name? He said, What's your name? I said, Where do you live? He said, Where do you live? Well, I smiled at him and he smiled at me. I said, How old are you? He said, How old are you? And this went on and on for a while until I couldn't get rid of him. He just kept looking over and anything I did. So finally I made a face at him and he made a face at me. And then I took my hands because this was going on and on. I took my hands and said, I'm going to wring your neck. And he didn't like that. And it wasn't that it bothered him. It was his dad next to him, wasn't too excited about that. And who, by the way, was a lot bigger than I am. And he looked back as if to say, what are you doing to my little boy? And everything I did, he did. It wouldn't have mattered. If I pick something up, he picks them up. If I do this or that didn't matter. I did anything. Everything that I did, he did.

When Paul said that, my greatest concern for you is that you would become followers of God, making sure that he becomes your life. Understand? So what do we know about God? Several years ago I was reading about the ABCs of Love You. My job is done, by the way. I'm not going through the whole alphabet. Let me just give you four or five, Can I? When it comes to following God and. A love of God in his hard for you and me, I mean, what does it mean to really love like God, to be like God, to follow God? If you're going to take the alphabet and just start with a) I think, first of all, you could honestly say that A stands for the fact that God accepts us just the way we are. Think of that, that the Lord accepts you and me. He sees you and me. He

loves us just the way we are, just as I am. He looks at me. He loves me. I mean, I'm very thankful for the love of God. I'm very thankful for people in my life who love him and are committed to being like him.

Because I remember when I first started the ministry after I got out of their preacher factory and and on my way now beginning to pastor and preach. But I hadn't I wasn't a pastor first. I was a youth pastor and I traveled around. I spoke at different churches and and during one stretch in the summertime, I spoke about 30 times and I we were just married. My wife and I and my little wife, Joyce, had to listen to me preach every night about the same thing. It was David and Goliath. I mean, it was horrible. But every single night and every single night, she would sit there in the front row with her Bible and a piece of paper as if she was taking notes. And I thought, there's no way they're watching me taking notes. And she's heard this 30 times and she's sitting in the front row. And she would sit there and she would take notes. Now I'm pastoring. And so I can't preach the same sermon all the time. And I always kind of look down to see how she's doing, because if she's not there, it's tough for me because she smiles even when it's horrible. I mean, she smiles even when it's really, really.

But I find myself realizing that one of the things I love about God is just think of it. I don't have to perform in. One of the things you should never remember about this conference is what Gordon said. And in fact, it may have snuck by a lot of people. Is it hard to believe that God could never love you more than he loves you right now? It's hard to imagine, isn't it? And and he'll never love you less. The reason he loves you than me is because of what Jesus did. It isn't by performance that he loves us. He loves you and me because he accepts us just the way are.

And B is for, he believes you're valuable. He believes there's really something about my life that is of value. He created you and me. He's given purpose to my life. And if you think you're not very valuable, if you don't believe God thinks there's purpose in your life, then you read Ephesians Chapter one and two. And when you're done, you come and talk to me and let me know whether or not you believe that God believes in you. There's value in you, there's purpose in you, because the scripture says he does.

And C is that he cares for you and me. He cares for me when I hurt. He cares for me when things aren't ideal. He cares for me when everything isn't fine. When I hurt, he hurts and when I weep, he weeps. And in fact, you know, I've always heard people say, you know, one of the things that Jesus is doing, one of the things that he's doing right now is that he has ever living and making intercession for the church. Well, I have always visualized the Lord kind of, you know, the picture in the garden of the Gethsemane where you see him kind of leaning up against the rock and there's kind of the ray of light that's coming down. And he's he's kneeling there now and praying as if he's interceding great drops of blood. You know, I'm you know, I think it's a pretty picture, but I think it's a very, very untypical picture of what's happening in heaven, because if I know anything about intercession, then Jesus Christ, think of it. This very moment, this very day is in heaven interceding for you and me. And all I know about intercession is that it requires tears and a great deal of passion and a great deal of work and time to intercede for someone. It's not just a casual you know, I just pray, Lord, do something and help them and bless them. But this very, very day the Lord cares for you and me so much that he's in heaven. And I don't know how that plays out in heaven. I don't know how it works. I do know that we're on his mind all the time and is that God desires what is best for you and me. It always has. It always will be everything

God has ever done. Everything he's ever, ever said was with your best interests in mind and mind. Everything that he does is for you and me. And he is to erase all offenses. And I can tell you this, if it wasn't for that, I would find myself in a whole lot of trouble because the list gets pretty long.

So when the apostle Paul said, I pray that you'll be followers of God, I want you to be like God, I. I want you to be the kind of person that accepts people to and that you love people and you hurt for them and and you erase the fences and all those things. But they are loved by you and they know it.

In fact, you've probably all heard of Nicky Cruz before. He's the young guy that was saved through the ministry of David Wilkerson probably twenty five years ago or so. He was a gang leader of the Momos in New York City, the most notorious gang in all the city. There's no question about that. And David Wilkerson's commitment was to speak to frankly, to minister to the gangs. And he would go out in the middle of the night, midnight, 12:00, one, two o'clock in the morning. And David Wilkerson found himself in the alley with Nicky Cruz and his gang. And of course, if you've read this story, you know that they stood there and they began to talk. And here's what David Wilkerson said. Now he's it's it's pitch dark. It's in Brooklyn. He knows that all he's all by himself. He's confronted this notorious gang. Nicky Cruz stands there and David Wilkerson begins to tell him about the love of God. And he says, you know, God loves you more than anything in the whole wide world. In fact, that's the reason why he sent me. Nicky, God loves you. He's concerned about you. He's so concerned about you that he knew you'd be here tonight, and that's why I came tonight. Because God knew that we would confront

one another and that I would get to tell you about how much God loves you. He's a God who loves and forgives his God, who's giving and really caring. And of course, Nicky Cruz wasn't buying into that, didn't listen much. And all he was looking at was David Wilkerson's shoes. And he looked at David Wilkerson said, you know what I'm going to do? I'm gonna I'm gonna cut you up in a million pieces and throw you in this alley. And David Wilkerson looked at Nicky Cruz and he said, You cut me up in a million pieces. And when you're done, I will tell you this. Every single piece will cry out about how much God loves you. With that Nicky Cruz looked at him and he said, you know, I've never had a new pair of shoes. And Nicky, of course, wasn't afraid to ask. He looked down. David Wilkerson's into brand new shoes on. He said, if if this if you talk about this love of God got so wonderful, then give me your new shoes. And David Wilkerson took off the shoes and he gave them to them. Of course, the story is notorious. Nicky Cruz broke down in that alley, received Jesus Christ, so transform his life and has gone around the world telling people about the love of God.

When Paul said, my great concern for you is that you'll be a follower of God, that you'll know his love, and in knowing his love, it'll change your life and cause you to be a person that blesses others.

Which leads me to the second thing, and that's found here in verse two, because he didn't just say, would you be a follower of God as dear children? But he says and walk in love as Christ also loved us and given himself for us and offering a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savior. Would you jot this down? The number one not only is love being and doing what God does, but love is better demonstrated than defined. Love is a lot better demonstrated. It's a lot easier to

demonstrate love than it is to really define it. People say, well, just read 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. It's not a definition of love. Real love. True love is better demonstrated than it is defined first to God sent so that you and I might know how much he really, really loves us. And would you notice this? Would you notice that loving and giving are tied together here in verse two? It says, and Christ also loved us and gave himself for us. And by the way, loving and giving are always tied together in the Scriptures. God so loved the world that he gave. He loved us so much that he gave himself so.