

Goals are Goads

By Mark Lee

Speaker 1:

He'll be speaking this morning, as well as the next three evenings on the series that he's chosen. Back in Chicago in October, some of us from Biola had the chance to be back at the American Association of Bible Schools and Colleges. Among those who were addressing the group was Dr. Mark Lee, and his topic was Goals are Goads. And when we wrote and asked Dr. Lee if he would come and share at Biola, and he accepted, we asked him especially if he would consider sharing that topic. I just felt it was so very timely. And so once again, we need not be introduced to him, but just need to welcome again Dr. Mark Lee, who I trust is sharing on the theme Goals are Goads.

Speaker 2:

Thank you very much. A couple of years ago, a little longer than that, I wrote a book on goals. And since then, I don't know how many people in the US and Canada or groups have asked to talk about it. And I was asked to talk about it this morning. So I am. Goals. Goals are Goads. A goad, as you may know, those of you are not farmers, and even farming in our time has not used it. But in former times, if an oxen was dawdling and every ox I've ever seen dawdled, what you would do is to jab him in the hind quarters with a stick. And that stick was simply a goad, an ox goad to move him along, to encourage him along.

So often we do not handle goals very well because we misconceive what goals are. And so in the time available to me, I'm going to talk to you about what I perceive to be goals. I've gotten

interested in this long ago, but it began to accent itself as I began to do some other work. I was invited to address a group of counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and analysts.

I don't really know why I was there, because I'm not a psychiatrist nor the son of a psychiatrist, but there I was addressing the group. Now when you're a President of a College, as your President could readily point out, you are asked to do some very interesting things when it comes to addressing groups. What probably happens is that an evangelical Christian is on the program committee, and the back of his mind, he thinks, I'm going to get one of ours on the program and you wake up and discover that you're it.

Now you're never going to be invited back there again, and you don't really know why you're there, so you may as well let them have it. And so that's what I decided to do. So my topic was the monumental failure of counseling. Now if you're going to talk to counselors and tell them that they failed, you better be ready. And so I was prepared. If you read the introduction to the fabulously popular book, *I'm Okay, You're Okay*. You'll discover that Robert Harris the man who wrote it is very critical of the counseling field. He's a psychiatrist in the city of Sacramento.

And if you will read such eminent works as *Love and Will* by Rollo May, who was an eminent psychiatrist on the Eastern Seaboard until his recent retirement to California, you will discover that he's very critical of his field of counseling. You can read some of the articles in the publications of various societies like the American Psychological Association. And you'll discover that some of them are very honest about the fact that counseling has not worked as well as we had hoped that it would work. In some instances, they will cite some excellent studies. If

you take 100 people just to summarize what they've said. If you take 100 people with mental emotional problems and you put them over here and you give them a counselor, an appropriate counselor, and you take 100 persons with mental emotional problems over here and you don't give them a counselor, these people get well, just about as fast as these people do.

The only thing is these people have the fee of the counselor to face as a new problem. Now, the point that I'm trying to make is simply this. Counseling has not done as much for us as we hoped that it would do. It just hasn't done it. Now, why not? And so I proposed to them what I thought were some of the problems that we faced in modern counseling. And that is that many of them this was quite a while ago, and it's less so now than it was then. But many of them were Freud in their concepts. And if you know anything about Freud, who arose about 100 years ago and made the University of Vienna eminent.

He had the idea that if you had a problem, you would put them on the couch and you'd begin your analysis. And since he put almost all of our problems in our sexuality, and then he gave them names from Greek mythology, it had to be good because no one understood what he was saying. He would get up beyond there and ply his client with a series of questions in an attempt to find out the source of the problem. Now, here's a fellow who is an alcoholic. He doesn't get along with his wife and he hates his children and he doesn't know how to do his job. He gets a feeling that there's something wrong. And so he goes to the counselor and the counselor discovers that the nipple collapsed when he was six months old.

That's probably an overstatement. But the point is that he's supposed to find the solution to his problem by going back to the source of his problem. Now we reached perhaps the height of that when what? 20 or so years ago, a book was written that became very popular entitled *The Three Faces of Eve*. And so you have Eve, and then you have Eve White and they describe the personality of Eve White, and then in the same person, you have Eve Black, and you describe the personality of Eve Black. And so Dr. Thickpen, the psychiatrist, tries to work all of this out.

He finally discovers that the reason for her problems was that one of the members of her family, if I remember correctly, her grandmother or grandfather died. And as was the case in the Southern society in days gone by, what happened was that the little child, Eve, who I've forgotten her age. It's been so long since I read it. But Eve was lifted up so she could kiss the face of the dead relative, perhaps her grandmother. And this created such a problem for her that she ultimately becomes these various kinds of personalities.

Excuse me, friends, but I just don't believe it. I know she had problems. There's no question about that. But I just don't buy it. The whole idea has to be more complicated than that. And when you follow people through, you discover indeed that there are certain ways in which they handle their problems. Now, in discussing this with these people, I simply said, now if you go back and sometimes some of our problems do have to be traced to their source, not nearly as many as we think, but some do. And I said, it's interesting that the people that I've had the most success with relative to counseling, I haven't bothered a great deal with tracing it back to the source of the problem.

They've got a problem now. If I trace it back to the source of their problem. Oh, so my mother did it to me. Now they have an additional problem. Not only the problem they've got, but hatred for their mother for giving it to them. And so you can actually complicate the problem by tracing it back. But what if instead you deal with the past this way? Whatever is wrong in my past, I'm sorry. Whatever I did in relationship to my past that was wrong, I repent of it. Then I get forgiveness for that. And then I have the great good sense of forgiving myself.

If I'm forgiven, then to forgive myself and then have the great good sense to forget what happened. Now that can handle the past, if it's treated responsibly. Now that's the past now the present doesn't exist. One of the best things that we can ever discover is that the present doesn't exist. You say. What do you mean by that? All the present is a paper thin moment between the past and the future. If you know anything about linguistics, you will know that some languages do not even have a present tense in them. That when people talk in those languages, they will either talk in the past in the future, because everything is either has happened or will happen.

Now, I've been talking to you for about eight minutes. Doesn't seem that long does it? And whether or not it was eight minutes ago or eight days ago, or eight months ago, or eight years ago, or 800 years ago, it's still in the past. Whether or not it's the near past or the distant past isn't the point. The point is it's in the past. Everything that's going to be done, even in this room, is going to be done in the future. Whether or not it's a minute from now, two minutes from now, or an hour from now, it's going to be done in the future. It's going to be done in the future. So my concern is to get some balance between the past and the future, what has happened to me and

what's going to happen to me. Since I can't do very much about what has happened to me, let's talk about what is going to happen to me.

And so I began to talk to them about what I thought was enormous success in counseling people when you concentrated on their futures, not what happened to them. You can't change their parents, you can't change their environment of the past. You can't change what happened to them in the past, but you can change what's going to happen to them in the future. So if they can treat their past in a certain way and concentrate on their future, what do you suppose will happen? So give some case histories about the future. And they were marvelous. When I finished and stepped off the platform, remember, I'm speaking to a group of scholars. I knew that because that's what they said.

Afterwards, when I stepped off, this fellow came to discuss something with me. He came up almost running, and he pointed his finger at me like that. And he said, sir, what you said sounds strangely religious. And I decided to use the same gesture. And I said, Right on. He says, what do you mean? I said, you know, I'm not smart enough for those ideas. I said, I got those ideas from the Scriptures. And then that pregnant silence when you're trying to talk to somebody that doesn't buy your point of view. And he looked at me. He says, from the Bible? And I said, Those are the scriptures. He says, you can't tell me that you just dressed that up and made that modern theory.

I said, if that's what I did, that's what I did. He says, well, show me. And so I took a little testament from my pocket and I said, Where do you want me to cut in? He says, what do you

mean? I said, I can cut in almost anywhere and show you that this is the whole concept of the Scripture. The Scripture says that whatever's in your past can be treated this way and that whatever you want to do, you must by faith do it under these circumstances. And he said, well, show me. And so I said, okay. And I opened the Philippians 3 part of which has been read already in your hearing. And our reader stopped at verse 13. But he could have gone on and embellished it more. Forgetting those things which are behind, says the Apostle Paul, reaching forward to those things which are before I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

And I said, you know, the fellow that wrote that would have made an excellent client for you. He says, who wrote it? I said, we call him the Apostle Paul. He says, I've heard of him. And I said, you know, he would have made an excellent client. And he said, Why? I said, Because he was a murderer. You know, whatever you and I have done for which we could feel sorry if any of us murdered anybody, I doubt it in the room. I would feel terrible enough if I drove down the street and inadvertently hit someone on the street and he died. I wonder how I'd handle that. Even though it may not have been my fault, if I had been keeping the law, it would not be my fault. I still would have some difficulty handling that because it was me who took away this man's life.

And I said, It's interesting that the Apostle Paul couldn't handle anything until he learned the secret of forgiveness. What do you suppose would happen, sir, if you knew how to get people forgiven? My whole life is dedicated to getting people to accept themselves right where they are and getting their past handled relatively rapidly. Relatively. It may take some time, but relatively rapidly. By getting the secret of forgiveness, being sorry for what they have done that is wrong

and asking God to forgive them, then forgive themselves, and they have the good sense to do what Paul did. To forget the things that are behind. It still blows my mind that the greatest of all of the Apostles ever to have lived was guilty of the death of the first man to die because of the witness of Jesus Christ.

He was the cause of Stephen's death, humanly speaking, and he could stand up in front of a group of people and be totally accepted. Why? Because he was forgiven. And I said, the interesting thing about it is that maybe we're forgiven. But I meet too many people who have mental, emotional and spiritual problems simply because they haven't accepted their own forgiveness. And then they simply take themselves where they are and go to where God wants them to become. That was more than he could take. He just turned and walked away. Now that's what I'm arguing for this morning.

When we begin to talk about goals, Christians oftentimes begin together to make excuse, and they say, oh, but if you love God, you live spontaneously. Oh, sure. And I said, what do you mean by that? And usually the explanation is totally unsatisfactory. So then I shifted around and begin to talk about some theological issues. So they'll see what I mean. And I'll say, what do you mean by faith? And usually what they mean by faith is to cover ignorance and to cover unsureness and to cover a lot of things when actually when you are able to live by faith, it's because you project yourself down the line and then you say, God, give me the faith to reach what I've set for myself to reach.

I suppose I really divide Christians into what I call open door Christians and closed door Christians. Closed door Christians sit in front of the closed door and say, Lord, if you want me to do it, open the door and you get back 20 years later. And they'll still say, no, you want me to do it, open the door. And I say to them, how in the world do you know if the door is open or closed? And usually the answers they give is that nothing has happened, like they haven't been hit by an earthquake or some electrical storm, hasn't destroyed their home or something mysterious, perhaps miraculous. I say, magical because something hasn't happened to them.

I happen to be an open door Christian. I believe that all of the doors are open and I want to go through the open doors. And I choose which open door I want to go through. And I start through and someone says, now, wait a moment. Isn't it possible that you could become presumptuous? Of course you can. You could become presumptuous and going through an open door, just like you can become presumptuous and waiting for the door to open.

You see, I think you can have presumption either way. You're not saved from presumption one way or the other. You say, well, why do you think you're right and the other is wrong? Because I got it from the Scriptures. I remind you again, I'm not that sharp to get it all by myself. I simply follow through the Scriptures and I see these men coming to the open doors and going through the open doors. And when God doesn't want to go through the open doors, he closes them. Don't tell me he can't close them if you think he can open them. He closes them. Well, where do you get that? Because I follow through the Scriptures.

Let's use one in the Old Testament, one in the New Testament. David wants to build the house of God. He has this marvelous goal to build the house of God. He lives in a seal house. Why shouldn't God have a house? And so he decides he's going to build God a house. But God slams the door right in his face and he says, I'm not going to have a man build my house who has hands of blood. And Solomon comes along and he sees his father's goal, and he decides to build a house. And so we remember the temple of Solomon, which was the goal of his father, David.

You come to Paul. You remember the story in the Book of Acts where Paul is crossing? He's going to turn. He's going in this direction because he knows the gospel has to be carried there and the Holy Spirit stops him. No, you won't. If he had been permitted to go on, perhaps Paul would have preached eastward and gone to India, perhaps to China. But instead, the Holy Spirit wants him to go westward and go to Rome. And so the Apostle Paul is stopped, even though the Apostle Paul has the goal. No wonder God chooses Paul and leaves some of the other disciples behind because he's an open door man.

Follow his goals. They're beautiful. He sets his goal to go to Jerusalem. He sets his goal to go to Rome. He sets his goal to go to Spain. I am told that he went around to England. I met a Swede one time who was convinced he went to Sweden. I don't know how they understood him there, but he went to Sweden, said this. It's all right with me. He went to Sweden.

The point is the point is that he is a goal setter. And while we're following the goals, there are others who are Christians in Jerusalem. Lord, you want us to go open the door. By the way, if you're not a goal oriented person, I wonder really what you do with the whole prophetic thrust of

Scripture. You see, the Old Testament tells us about the great goal of God to send his son. In the Old Testament, we get that goal. And the goal is unraveled before us because we tend to be persons who do not lift up our eyes and see the vision. And then in the New Testament, we have the whole goal of God coming again in Christ for us, that's absolutely marvelous.

If you follow through Scripture, the people that you admire most seem to be goal setters all the way. Start with Noah if you want to. He gets a goal to build a ship, and he's going to build it in 120 years. Boy that is a goal. And he starts building it and everyone else who eats and drinks and be merry because tomorrow we die come by and make fun of him. But this is my goal. What a goal. Hasn't rained there for a few decades. And then the day comes when his goal is finished and the water comes and those who have lived without goals perish. And Noah and his family ride the waves.

Now you can start there and go all the way through here. A man that gets a goal. I'm going to go into the land that God has promised. And he leaves the Ur of the Chaldeans, and he goes as far as Heron. His name is Tera. He has a son named Abram. And they get there and they stop. Half a goal. Well, half a goal is better than none at all, I suppose. But he stops, I suppose, because the door isn't open and when he dies, Abram says, hey, that was a good goal my father had. I'll follow through and he goes into the land. So today we remember the patriarch says Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We should have remembered Tera, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Follow all the way through if you want to. Those marvelous goals of the men of God, take the Apostle Paul if we talk about the goals of Jesus use up all of our time those marvelous goals that

he had and the one goal to go to the cross, and no one got him away from that goal. And if that's God's method, can I follow it? I think so. I think so. The Apostle Paul takes some simple words in the life of the Apostle Paul. Take the word winter and look up the word winter. W-I-N-T-E-R. In the life of the Apostle Paul, notice all the things he says he's going to do before winter. Notice all the things he says he's going to do after winter.

In other words, he not only can set long range goals to go to Rome and preach and go to Spain and preach, but he can do this before winter and this after winter. I can just hear Christians begin to quote Scripture and they go to the Sermon on the Mount, take no thought for the moral. For the moral shall take thought of the things of itself. That's an awful translation. You know that, don't you? The passage really says, don't worry. Now, 350 years ago, perhaps you could get that kind of clarity in taking no thought for tomorrow, but we don't have that in our language today. So go back and find out what it really says. And what it really says is don't worry.

Now, one of the ways I don't worry about tomorrow is I've got it planned. I really do have it planned. I've taken a look at my life before I planned it, and after I planned it, and I did so little before I planned it, and so much since I planned it far less than I really want to do, but so much more than before I planned it that I haven't the slightest doubt no one can gain say to me but that this is God's way of expressing your faith in effective ways so that your life accomplishes a great deal more than any of your dreams or fantasies could have ever proposed. I'm just afraid to tell you some of them for fear, you'd say, always just egotistical.

But I saw what happened to my life before I became a goal setter, and since I became a goal setter, and I'll take it since then before. Because you can live in many instances beyond anything you could have ever imagined in the course of your life. Then someone comes and quotes from James, a man is going to go in such and such a city and buy and sell and get gain, and who knows whether or not his soul is going to be required of him?

Maybe tomorrow, maybe next year. If you read the context of the passage, you'll understand that what the Lord is telling us to do is to make sure we set goals. But he warns us. Don't set goals without God and your goals. That's what he's saying. He's not saying don't set goals. What he is saying is don't set goals without God in them. That's perfectly all right with me because I'm not going to make the goals unless God is in them as we go along.

One day our son came to the house and he and his wife had set a goal of buying a house. So as we were standing there talking, he said, dad, here it is, 01:00 on Saturday, and we had set this day to get our house. And I said, Fine. He said, we don't have it. And I said, well, that's tough. I'm very helpful in responding things like that. He said, dad, you always taught us to live by goals. I said, yes. And he said, but we didn't make it. I said, hey, that's one of the problems with Christian people when it comes to goals. They look at goals as morals.

If I set a goal and I don't make it, then I'm naughty, I'm guilty. I've got to make that right. That's not what a goal is. A goal says under God by his Grace through prayer. I want to accomplish this. If I don't accomplish this, I don't accomplish it. But at least I know what road I'm on and what speed I want to travel. But you see, one of the reasons why we have all this so called difficulty

with New Year's resolutions. Actually, we have several problems with them, but one of them is I'm afraid to make them because if I break one of them, I've broken the morals. Well, if I had my Bible here, I'd simply hold up and say, Here are all of the morals I need. I don't need to make any new ones. All I have to do is to keep these be obedient to these. And I've got it.

Well, what is a goal? A goal is a kind of justifiable conduct which, if God wills, is what I'm going to do in the next month, next year, maybe tomorrow, maybe ten years from now. And so I had to explain to my son again what I've said over and over again, and he felt terribly guilty. He hadn't reached a goal. One time, Robert Taft of Ohio was asked what his great goal was. He said, My great goal was to become President of the United States in 1952 when he was beaten out for the nomination of the Republican Party by General Eisenhower, who went on and became the President of the United States.

And someone says, you didn't make your goal, did you? He said, no, but if you can think of goals as targets, if you hit your goal right on, you hit 100, 80, 60, 40, you won't always hit it right on. And so he said, I didn't become President of the United States, but I did become Senator from Ohio. In other words, there are times when you'll set a goal and you won't hit right on the goal, but you will hit 80, 60, 40, depending on what you think of senators. There's no question. There's no question in my mind but that he would have missed the target entirely instead of hitting some part of the target if he didn't aim for that center, if he didn't aim for the thing that he wanted.

And I looked at my son and I simply said to him, Son, the day isn't over yet. I shouldn't have said that. And he says, all right. He says, we were going to do it today. Here's 01:00 on the last day

that we set. He says, if you're so good at it, you go buy the house. And I said to him, you mean you want me to buy the house and you'll live in it? And he says, yeah, you buy the house, I'll live in it. I looked over at his wife and I says, Honey, is that art with you? She said, no. And I says, okay, let you and I go by the house. She says, Come on, dad, let's go. And she wrapped her arm in my arm. And then my wife, who tends to be on the side of her kids. She said, when shall I have dinner ready? I said, 06:00, same time.

What if you don't have the house? By this time, I would have bought a chicken coop and made him live in it. I said, have dinner at 06:00. Now, as a matter of fact, inside of myself, if we hadn't found the house, we wouldn't find the house. It's just a goal that we're after. And if we don't go after something that is worthwhile and we ask God to pave the way for us, how do we know that we're going to accomplish what we ought to accomplish? And so we went out, we came back 3:45, both of us discouraged. We didn't make you do it. I said, let's get in that car. We still have time till 06:00, we got in the car and we drove up in front of 1100 Brussels Avenue in San Francisco.

And I said, David, there's your house. He said, what do you mean? I said, there's your house. Well, what do you mean? Well, Suzanne and I bought it just an hour ago. Don't believe it. Here are the keys. Go try them. I don't believe it. Try the keys. He tried the keys. Lived in it for the next two and a half years. Sold it for enough profit to pay for his PhD at the University of Minnesota. Dear friends, I can repeat them over and over again that you can set those goals and you're going to miss a lot of them, but you're going to set the goals. Now, most people do not set the goals because they don't know what a goal is.

They really don't. A goal is measurable. It's measurable. Somebody else has to come along and look at your goal and find a way to find out whether or not you made it. For example, as someone comes along and says, what's your spiritual goal for next year? And I say, I'm going to be a better man next year than I was last year. So I get through the year and you say, Were you a better man this year than you were last year? My answer will invariably come back, of course I was. And then you ask my wife and she says, I didn't detect it.

In fact, there may have been a loss or two. You see, there's no way of finding out whether or not her view is correct or mine is correct, even though I argue for my own. You see, it's got to be measurable. I tell you that I'm going to save \$5 a week next year. And so you look at my bank book on December 31 and you see that I put \$5 in this week, next week, next week, skipped a week, put in \$5, \$5. Skipped a week at the end of the year instead of having \$260, as I would have if I put in \$5 every week, I have \$200. You look at it and say, didn't make your goal, did you? And I said, no, but I got \$200.

You see, I didn't make the 100 somewhere off 80, 60. But the point is, I made a goal, and if I don't make the goal, I don't make the goal. In fact, if you make all the goals that you've ever set, you didn't make enough goals. I ought to have a few more. Not a lot more. I ought to have a few more goals than I can make because they will make me stretch. Now, if I make too many you psychologists already know that if you make the goal too high, you say, hey, that's too high. And so you don't reach at all. Make sure that there is at least some hope for you reaching it. Start out if you're a coward and make some simple goal, and then when you make it, you feel so good about it, you'll make another one and another one and another one and things begin to happen.

Now, there's something wonderful that it generates itself in goal setting, and especially when you love the Lord and you know that you're walking in his will and you know that what you want to do is to glorify him. Some marvelous things begin to happen. My wife and I sat down because I didn't have the idea of my long range education till after I was married. In other words, tragedy had fallen before I had a concept of what I wanted to do. And so my wife and I sat down and we figured out what would happen. We laid out a ten year goal, and at the end of the ten years, I was going to have my PhD from the University of Washington in Seattle. We laid it all out and she looked at it, and our children were born by this time. And we talked to the children, even the baby, about it.

My wife said, all right, I'll work for ten years. If you haven't in ten years, fine, if you don't, I quit. And she quit in ten years. Good thing I had it in nine and a half. And so she quit. In other words, the whole thing was laid out. It was one of the best things that ever happened when it came to rearing our children, because our children began to feel the goals of the family. They began to recognize what it was to live for something. I had finished a book on this particular year. That was one of my goals. I finished the book. The publisher came to argue about the title.

If you're a writer, the writers know that the publishers don't say much about what goes in the book. They want the title because they sell with the title. So he sat there arguing through 58 different possible titles. And finally we ended up with my own anyway on that particular occasion. But as the publisher was sitting there, usually they send an editor for this. But the publisher came because he was on his way from Michigan to Seattle and came to where I was in Spokane, Washington. I was teaching at Whitworth College.

And so as he was sitting there, I was called by the President of College. When the President College, I want to talk President wasn't important, but I talked to President. And when I came back, the publisher was there, and he had my children around him and he had Jodie in his lap, our little Jodie and talking to her. And there were the others. And Sharon was the oldest. And he had asked each one of the children what they wanted in life.

Intelligent question. And each one, we want what Daddy wants. And he said, Jody, we want what daddy wants. Well, what does your father want? He wants to get a doctor's degree. Well, what's that? I don't know. The older children knew, but Jodie gave the best answers. I don't know. So asked Sharon, we want what mom and dad want. What do they want? And they recited the goals of the family and then the goals of the family. One of the big goals was my educational goal. When I walked back in the room, he says, hey, by the way, he had talked to my wife after the children said all of this, he'd gone in the kitchen, talked to my wife, and there he was with my children around him, ours, my wife was in on it, our children around him, and he says, with a wife behind you like this and children behind you like this, why don't you do it?

And I said, what have they been telling you? What they've told me about your educational goal. I said, well, they have a habit of eating and they want to clothes and have to go to school and they need protection. He says, how much will it cost? I said, \$15,000, which today would be \$50,000, at least \$15,000. And he wrote out the check. And just to please him, I went and got the degree. Now the point I'm trying to make, dear friends, you can't imagine the enormous reservoir of goodwill that exists in the older generation for young people. You don't know it honest you don't.

And when they find persons who are willing to dedicate themselves, willing to give their energies, willing to give their prayer life and understanding to it, it is amazing how they will come and help you make it. That's happened to me too often, but that I feel like it's almost an aphorism. Every January I have the people of our College come and talk to me. It doesn't make any difference if it's a Dean and vice President or the dishwasher. And they sit by my desk and I talk to them. I started this in January of 1971, ten years ago, and I looked. Dave came in, a fellow in our Bible Department, and as he came in the door, I said, Come on, Dave, sit down. He says, Is this a clever way to fire me?

I said, what do you mean? He says, well, you're the new President. Usually new President wants his own team. Maybe this is just a diplomatic way of moving some of us out. I said, oh, David, no, sit down. He says, what do you want to talk about? I says, this January, each January builds. This January I just want to talk about two things. One is, what are your goals and what can the College do to help you make them? The next is, I want to tell you what the College goals are and what you can do to help us make the College goals.

And so I said, Tell me, what is one of your great professional goals? We are going to talk about professional goals, family goals, spiritual goals, all the goals. He says, for ten years I've wanted to get for ten years I've wanted to get a PhD in Old Testament archeology. And when he began to describe it, I just got all excited. I said, that's wonderful. Why don't you do it? He says, I told you, you're trying to fire me. You want to get rid of me. I said, no, I don't want to get rid of you, tell me about it.

So he told me what he could do if he went to Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. They had just a program that he wanted in the summers. He could go on digs in Palestine, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. I was so excited. I thought if I had another life, I'd go for Old Testament archaeology. That's how exciting it sounded. And so I said to him, do it. He says, I told you, you're trying to get rid of me. I said, no, I'll save your job for you. As we walked out, I said to Yvonne, my Secretary, put David down one week from the day, same hour. He says, what we talk about? I said, we're going to talk about that goal. He says, what are we going to talk about at that goal?

I said, either you're going to do it or you're going to give it up. One or the other. You've lived in a fantasy world for ten years, something you wanted to do, and it just bothers you. It just bothers you. So he came back the next week and he held out his hand just like that. And I said, what is it, David? I just want you to know my wife and I have decided to go for it. After ten years, we decided to go for it. I say, Fine. I stood up from my chair and I said, we're not going to ask God for anything. We're just going to praise him that you made the decision to go for it. And we did. Well, after we talked for a while, walked out, I said to Yvonne, Put him down. Same time next week.

He says, what we talk about? He says, we're going to talk about how you're going to do it. He says, how am I going to do it? I said, I don't know how you're going to do it. You're going to tell me how you're going to do it. He says, what do you mean? I says, Plan A. What's Plan A? I don't know what plan A is. I never know what plan A is. I just know there's a plan A. I said, you find

it. Next week, he came in. He had a white piece of paper. I'll never forget it at the top 36 times ten times 36 equal \$360 monthly. Mthly.

I said, what's that? He says, 36 men in a Sunday school class heard about what I wanted to do. And they have promised me \$10 a month apiece for the next 36 months, \$360 monthly. And may I say, those men never failed him. They elected a treasurer who every month collected the \$10 from each one of them. And they got \$360 a month for the next 36 months. Number two, someone else come along and help him. Number three, so he had five different people or groups of people going to help him. He had a line and he had a figure down there how much he was going to take in every month. Down in the corner he had another figure. And I said, Dave, what's that? He says, that's how much you pay me every month for teaching.

You'll notice I'm going to get more studying than I am teaching for you. He went and got the degree and when it was all over, we couldn't afford him. He's teaching in a graduate school on the Eastern Seaport of the United States. And every time I get to New York, we have a lunch and he says, thanks for getting me off the dime.

Dear friends, I can repeat it over and over again. I was preaching in Yakima and this fellow take us to his home for dinner. And my wife went with his wife. And then in the car he said, I just wanted to explain the guest that I have today. I said, Fine. He says, he's 92 years old. I was 37 at the time. And I said to him, 92. He said, yeah. I said, Why should I be excited about a man 92 years old? He says, this is an exciting fellow. You're a goal setter, and he's a goal setter. I said, what do you mean? He said, he's 92 years old and he has been in his all of his life. He's been an

Apple rancher. He just planted ten more acres of Washington red delicious apples. I said, how old is he? 92.

We got there and that fellow was just as exciting as anybody I've ever seen. You had to talk louder. But he was excited. And afterwards I said, Paul an attorney. He says he's just a goal setter. I said, what will happen? He says, Those apples will never be ready for him. I saw Paul six years later. I said, what happened that old guy? Just picked his apples. Just picked his apples. I told this story recently and a young lady came up and said, I know that man. She told me the name of the man that I'd stayed with, told me the name of that other man. I said, how do you know that? He says, he's my great great grandfather. He's dead now. But I want to tell you another story.

He decided when he was 95 he's going to go around the world. And they tried to talk him out of it. 95 decrepit old man go around the world. He says, yeah, that's one of my goals. Go around the world. I'm going now. I'm going now. And someone said to him, but what if you die? He says, that's your problem. A fellow came down from Sacramento. I've been speaking at Mount Herman and he says, he says, I have had a goal for I don't know how many years. I want to live in Santa Barbara. No, I want to live in Santa Barbara. And he says, if you wanted to live in Santa Barbara. What would you do? I says, I'd move.

I said, yeah, I'd find out the world for me in Santa Barbara if that's where I wanted to be. And he said, well, now, wait a minute. I said, Try Plan A. What's Plan A? I don't know what Plan A is. He says, well, give me Plan A. Anyway. I said, okay. And I just thought up. I go talk to my boss

asking for this transfer. And he said, do you suppose that will work? I said, I suppose not. Then I go to Plan B. So what's Plan B? I said, I don't know. I'll work on it while you're working on Plan A. He called me four days later in Sacramento. He said, Guess what happened. I said, Why don't you tell me? He says, the boss told me that they're opening a new office in two and a half years in Santa Barbara. They'd even talked about me becoming the supervisor, but they thought I was so happy in Sacramento I wouldn't move to Santa Barbara.

He says they have decided that I shall go. And he says, I'm on my way. But they won't be ready for two and a half years because they're building a new building. In the meantime, I'm going to be stationed in Monterey. That's suffering from the Lord. And in a matter of days he was on his way after years. Dear friends, it's a matter of if you are spiritually discerning of setting those goals and making them happen. At noon the Christians think of the loaves and fishes. Quickly. Now let me complete it. If I can, let's close with this idea. It's simply a matter. It's simply a matter of laying out those goals and you lay them out for a period. I could show you. I even have some of them with me of what I'm going to be doing. For example, in my writing experience, someone has come and said, how do you write books? I said, you take one eighth and a half by eleven sheet of paper and you put 300 words on it today and get a fresh piece of paper, put 300 words on tomorrow. At the end of the year, you've got a manuscript.

Now, maybe no one will publish it, but you've got a manuscript and you've got to work from there. You take all of your goals, put them down in bite size and do a little bit every day of all that you want to be. Fellow came. He says you believe in spiritual goals. I said, I certainly do. He says, I've had a spiritual goal for seven years to read through the Bible in the year. I said, Fine,

that's a good goal. He said, but I've never done it. He says, I've read Genesis seven times and Revelation not at all. I said, what happens is I get about in Psalms. I said, Fine, what's fine about it? I said, Psalms halfway through the Bible. Why don't you set the goal read through the Bible in two years. He said, you suppose I could do that? I said, Anyone that's stupid, maybe he won't get through.

But the point is, I said to him, I said, Where did you get the idea it should be one year? He says, the preachers all say that. And I said, Give me the chapter and verse. He says, I can't. I said, all right, now let's talk about it differently. He says, how do you want to talk about it? I said, Take that. And I took a few pages and I said, now, do you suppose you could read 75 verses a day? He said, sure. I said, I suppose you could read 150 verses a day.

He says, yes. I said, Fine. Read 150 verses a day. You get through in a year. Read 75, you get through in two years. He says, I can read 150. I said, that's the trouble. You thought about reading through the Bible in the year. You didn't think in the terms of what you could do each day to make accomplish all that you want to be at the end of your life. It's beautiful. You can set some goals that are very special with you that no one else would have. I've got a pastor friend. I promise I'm a liar at times. I promise to close with this one. This man decided he went to a town and there was no Church there, I mean, none that he would relate to.

And he decided that he was going to start this Church and he had all these spiritual goals what he's going to do. And one of his goals was to make sure that he took out once a month some leader in the town. And one time he called up the Sheriff and said, Sheriff wants to go to lunch.

Sheriff found out who he was. And the Sheriff says, well, all right, he's a voter, so I might as well go in. He went down and picked up the Sheriff at the appropriate time. When the Sheriff was getting on this side, my friend Ken, a pastor got in on this side, the Sheriff great big birdie fell looked like a redneck, but it was California. And he looked across the car and he said to my friend Ken, he said, Reverend, I don't want any of that religious garbage. And the pastor, I just ask you to lunch.

Crazy like a Fox. They got in the car, drove to lunch. They talked about hunting. The Sheriff like hunting. My friend liked hunting. They just talked about hunting and how they got their deer that fall and took back. And the Sheriff said, hey, I've never had such a good time. Maybe we'll do this again. The pastor pulled out his date book when. I'll make a long story short, that Sheriff now is a born again man, still Sheriff, and he's ahead of the ushers in my friend's Church. My friend went there 14 years ago with two families. The last time I preached to his Church, I preached to 1700 people.

And if you would ask him, how did you get from zero and in about 14 years to 1700 people, he would draw out his pieces of paper. These are my goals. These are my goals in God and you say to him, did you make them all? No, I didn't make them all. But I made enough. And God has goaded me to do his will so much more. I feel sorry for what I have to leave out. But get cracking. Shall we pray? Our father give to us the inspiration, the willingness, the energy, the wisdom to do what needs to be done. That our lives may become what they ought to become. In your name we pray. Amen.