



SERMON SERIES OUTLINES

Prepared by Major Terence Hale

Raising Up CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused Disciples

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE TEXT

Mark 12:28-34

Point of Contact Intro

I thought long and hard about how to begin today... How to start in a way that ensures you want to hear what God wants to say to us today about raising up this generation, and generations to come, to be CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciples...

I could show you an emotional video like this one, to plant the need deep in your spirit:



...but I decided that something else would be better suited.

I could quote you challenging statistics to help us better understand the pressing need to focus on passing the baton of faith to emerging generations, like:

- Only 1% of churches say youth ministry is their top priority, ...or that
- 34% of Gen Z claim no religious affiliation, and only 9% claim to be engaged Christians, ...or that
- Active mentors in the lives of young adults increases retention of faith by 50%, ...or that
- Close to 30% of Salvation Army churches in Canada and Bermuda don't run any form of Sunday School.

But I decided not to do that, because 83% of statistics are made up.

I could tell you that you and the next generation are the Army of today, not just the future.

But I'm not going to do those things, because deep down I don't think I need to. What we need is an action plan — a focus. So I want to talk about making CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciples. That's the bottom line goal, not only for youth and children's ministries, but for our churches as a whole, in order to be communities of faith that are flourishing.

Recap the Bible Narrative (Mark 12:28-34)

V28 — What should we be focusing on? Jesus is answering that question:

Love God.

Love Others.

It is in the right order.

(The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17)

It isn't possible to reverse the order faithfully.

What does it mean to love?

— **1 John 5:3:** In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.

(Repentance towards God leads to obedience.)

— **John 15:13:** Greater love has no man than he lay his life down for a friend

(Sacrifice)

V29 — It is about Lordship.

There is only one God. We need only one image to worship, and it is him, revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

V33 — It has to go beyond what we do, but what we do cannot be neglected.

Adults, we need to be examples.

Kids, if adults are not the example, you need to be examples to us. (1 Timothy 4:12)

V34 — Living this way will be an answer to the world, that cannot be refuted.

This is our goal because this kind of living will change the world and have eternal impact!

Do you want to know what you need to do for youth and children — to pass on the baton of faith to emerging generations? Teach them (and model what it looks like) to love God and to love others — to be CHRIST-centred, and OTHERS-focused.

Matthew 22:40 — “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

This is a pinnacle, not a distillation. This is a sum, not a reduction. Love God. Love others. Be CHRIST-centred, and OTHERS-focused.



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Christ at the Centre

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE TEXT

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

Point of Contact Intro

Video Clip: Michael McIntyre Skipping:



And/or



With the unnatural divide of the sacred and secular, ushered in by the Enlightenment, along with our growing embrace of individualism in the West, we have lost something foundational as a society, and as people of faith.

These are not matters that can be addressed with tiny tweaks of style, as like what we just watched. We are considering matters that call for wholesale shifts:

Proposition:

Christ must be the centre of Christian living.

Biblical Exposition (Deuteronomy 6:1-12)

V4-5 — Faith is Sufficient

The Shema

The LORD is all we need, and we must love him with ALL our heart, and ALL our soul, and ALL our strength.

We need to stop chasing ideas, and worshipping others — bowing down to images.

Matthew 6:33

We must be careful of the tendency to return to the captor (as the people of Israel desired to do after they left Egypt).

V6 — Faith Runs Deep

The Word of God needs to constitute who we are.

John 7:37-39 — Thirsty? Come and drink, and streams of living water will flow from within

Isaiah 12:2-3 — With joy, draw from the wells of salvation

Jeremiah 17 — The new covenant is on our hearts. It is written there by God — it is not dependant on external circumstances.

Fall in love with Jesus!

V7 — Faith is Transformative

Impress — teach them diligently — to sharpen, to pierce literally or with knowledge

Hebrews 4:12 — Scripture is a double-edged sword

V8 — Faith Identifies

This is about outward identifiers. Live faith: put it into practice daily.

Our faith in Jesus should define who, what, and how we are.

Matthew 5:14-16 — We are a “city on a hill” — that they may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven

V9 — Faith is Foundational

What is the key foundational element in your home?

Psalm 127 — Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.

V12 — Faith Remembers

Psalm 78:1-7 — We will tell the next generation

Psalm 103:2 — Forget not his benefits

Conclusion

Christ must be the centre of Christian living.

The Church is only one generation away from extinction.

Judges 2:10

The larger Church doesn't need to do something about it, we need to do something about it ourselves. Only then can the larger Church do the same.

Let us pray:

Psalm 9:10 — Those who know your name, trust in you; for you LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you!

Psalm 73:25 — Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

Psalm 121 — I lift my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from?

Philippians 2 — Let this same mind be in you...

Hebrews 4:14-16 — We have a Great High Priest. ...Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

Declare his Names

Pray scripture.



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The Mind of Christ: To Be Others-focused

Point of Contact Intro

Video Clip: Studio C Prop Switch



Beware of a myopic point of view — both individually, and as a church community.

To be Christ-centred is to have the mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:16 — We have the mind of Christ

To have the mind of Christ is to be transformed and sacrificial.

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 10:31 — Whatever you do, do it for him. Don't cause anyone to stumble.

To have the mind of Christ is to be Others-focused.

Philippians 2 — Have this same attitude...

John 15:13 — No greater love...

Psalm 12:5 — Because of oppression, I now arise. I will protect them.

1 — Reconciliation vs. Recognition

Matthew 5:23-24 — Reconcile before bringing your offering

Mark 5:24-34 — Disciples trying to “handle” Jesus in the midst of the crowd and his compassion for those in need

Philippians 2:17 — Drink offering - the least of the offerings, just “poured out”.

John 3:30 — John the Baptist: “He must increase; I must decrease.”

Who do you need to be concerned about?

2 — Service vs. Being Served

Philippians 2:12-14 — Work without complaining

Luke 22:25-27 — The greatest must become the servant of all. “I am among you as one who serves.”

Matthew 25:14-46 — Our service reflects our attitude and opinion of God the Father.

How are you serving? Not, “what is your job” — how are you *serving*?

3 — Fellowship

Hebrews 10:23-25 — Hold fast. Spur one another on. Don’t give up meeting together. What does this look like in our corps? In your small group? In your relationships?

Ezekiel 37 — Invite the breath of God to breathe into your circumstance, your community. The Godhead is always actively moving toward creation.

Are you grafted in?

4 — Vision & Purpose

Do we have an **Acts 17:6** corps? Are we “causing trouble” all over the place — stirring up the soil in the place where God has planted us, for greater growth, for God’s purposes?

Isaiah 54:2-3 — Enlarge your tent. Prepare for greater things!

Christ lived on purpose, for the sake of others.

Luke 9:51 — He resolutely set his mind towards Jerusalem, knowing it would lead to his crucifixion.

John 18:37 — For this reason I came into the world...

Always be expecting greater things.

God forgive us, if we think the status quo is the best offering we have for him!

Our kingdom best is always a step beyond our last greatest achievement.

Are we prepared and hungry for greater things? **1 Kings 18:30** — Repair the altar.

Conclusion

We must have the mind of Christ: an Others-focused mind.

Let us pray.