



Today commemorates Resound Community's 4-year anniversary as a church. I really can hardly believe it... It's been such an incredible journey. Many of you have been with us from the very beginning, and some of you are new to our church family. But all of it is glorious to me. Thank you for making my job a joy. Until 4 years ago, Larry and I had no experience as senior pastors of a church. And you have stood by us through many trials, and have watched us grow as much as we have watched you grow. Thank you!

I. A NEW BEGINNING

- A. Last week, I felt like something clicked for me. With the school shutting its doors for this season, I've been able to really see some areas that we need to restructure. It's not that things were in good working order before, it's that we didn't have the time and energy to address what was out of order. Last week, during the altar call, the Lord spoke to me concerning our church. The mandate for Resound Community Church is not separate or different than the mandate on our training school. In the eyes of God, the mandate is exactly the same. It may have unique practical applications, but the mandate, the DNA is exactly the same. I don't think I knew that before last week.

Ephesians 4

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- B. My job is laid out in these passages... and so is yours:

1. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry
2. For building up the body of Christ
3. To attain to the unity of the faith, maturity, to the measure of the fullness of Christ
4. To speak the truth in love
5. To set growing up as the goal of this body... growing into Christ
6. To ensure the body is joined not just to the head, but to each other in health

- C. We can have so many western ideas about the church, so many American ideas about the church that have absolutely no foundation in the scriptures. We aren't trying to conform to the American idea of church, but rather the Biblical notion of community living. My primary job is to train you for action... To condition you to obey Jesus.

- D. When it comes to running a school, I understand that discipleship is full-time. Peter, John and Andrew left everything at the call of Jesus. Their past occupations were just that, the past. This has been my journey. Many years ago, my pastor and director of my Bible school critiqued me after one of my sermons. He said, "Leah, you seem to only preach to one audience, the green berets. But the



church is made up of civilians not just an elite core.” I’ve worked hard to embrace his critique. But after Sunday, I’m not sure I have been right to do so.

2 Timothy 2

[2:1] You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, [2] and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. [3] Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. [4] No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. [5] An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

- E. The amazing thing about our faith is that it is all recorded. There is not a secret book that I have in my home that you do not have access. Everything is here. It has been recorded here. There was not a special sacrifice reserved for the spiritually elite. There is not a different Holy Spirit given at baptism. There is only one sacrifice given for us, Jesus, who has sent His precious Spirit to dwell with us. My charge to you is this, whether you are in “full-time” ministry, or you are a “lay” minister, or you are a businessman or woman, or in medicine, or whatever.... That from this day forward you would see yourself in the Body of Christ! That you would commit to growing into Christ, the Head. That you would set your heart to obey what’s been set out for us.
- F. Over the next weeks and months I am going to come after the secret heresy that has crept into the church of subjectivism. We aren’t finding our own truth here! This isn’t the denomination of Oprah. We are looking to the scriptures to show us the Way. The Lord is stirring me to boldly speak against the “move of the spirit” that doesn’t lead us into obedience to the expressed will of God. Pray for me to speak as I ought. I know many people will be offended, but my job is to present you blameless on the Day of Christ. If there are areas in your life that are not submitted, not conquered by Christ, whatever gift you think you have to offer will be nothing more than a mixture. Let’s seriously take an inventory of our lives... and make sure that there is nothing to disqualify.

1 Corinthians 9

[24] Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. [25] Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. [27] But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- G. ***An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules (2 Timothy 2:5).*** We can’t do whatever we want however we want and call it holiness. We can’t call sin righteousness. There is a tremendous deception already in the church, it’s not coming, it’s here. We have every kind of unclean act endorsed even from the pulpit... homosexual preachers, and divorce, and lewdness, and rampant immorality in the church. But the Word of God will not budge. I want to challenge you to get alone with the Bible. The “rules” have been posted. You are called to run the race. And there is a that great cloud of witnesses we’ve talked about cheering you on... I want to make sure you don’t get to the end and realize you slipped over the line, you didn’t have on the regulation uniform (Matthew 22), etc... and at the end of it all find your very life was disqualified. Better to count the cost and come under the regulations at the start of the race!



Luke 14

[25] Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, [26] "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. [27] Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? [29] Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' [31] Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? [32] And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. [33] So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

H. Again, not necessarily the most popular American teaching, but they are the words of Jesus. As for me, I have every confidence that He will not lead us astray. Not only does He have perfect theology, Jesus is perfect theology. So, there's my long introduction... Shall we go on to the 50 commandments?

So far we've gone through commands 1-13:

1. Repent—Matthew 4:17, Luke 13:3
2. Let not your heart be troubled—John 14:27, John 16:33, Matthew 6:25-26, Philippians 4:6-7
3. Follow me—Matthew 4:19
4. Rejoice—Matthew 5:12, (Also 2 Corinthians 6:10, 12:10, James 1:2-4)
5. Let your light shine—Matthew 5:16
6. Honor God's law—Matthew 5:17-19
7. Be reconciled—Matthew 5:24-25
8. Do not commit adultery—Matthew 5:27-30
9. Keep your word—Matthew 5:33-37
10. Go the second mile—Matthew 5:38-42
11. Love your enemies—Matthew 5:44
12. Be perfect—Matthew 5:48
13. Practice secret disciplines (giving, praying, fasting)—Matthew 6:1-18

II. #14-LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Matthew 6

[19] "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A. This has everything to do with the word that was released last week. It's about living for another age.

1 Corinthians 15



[19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Revelation 12

[12] "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. [13] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

2 Corinthians 11

[23] Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. [24] Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; [26] on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; [27] in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. [28] And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. [29] Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? [30] If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

B. There is another age. It's almost here. It's just about upon us. And to lose sight of it, even for a moment can take you on quite a detour. Everything in life that is good has a delay. Everything in life has a process. The farmer tills the ground and plants seed in the field and then has to wait. A woman conceives and then has to wait. There is a betrothal and then a wait. God not only allows the process, He ordained the process. Everything in life is designed to strengthen our faith. This life is mostly about planting... and the age to come is mostly about reaping. This age is mostly about conceiving, the age to come is mostly about birthing. This age is mostly about betrothal... but the age to come is about the wedding and then the marriage! Delay expands us. It never diminishes us.

III. #15- SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 6

[31] Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

A. The Jews were greatly mistaken in respect to the nature of that kingdom which their Messiah was to set up. They expected a kingdom like the kingdoms of this world, invested with earthly splendor, fitted to aggrandize their nation, and minister to their national pride. Christ sought to undeceive them. He told them that his kingdom did not come with outward show--that it must be within men, and that it was not of this world. He would have them understand that it was spiritual, and not temporal; demanding the homage of the heart, and not the pomp and pageant, so commonly rendered to royalty. The simple idea of this kingdom is that Christ himself reigns in the hearts of his people, securing the perfect submission of the will, and the consecration of every power to himself. Thus his kingdom is within; it is invisible. It puts on no outward glare. In the hearts of men he writes his laws by his Spirit, and thus rules over them



to deliver them from Satan and sin, and translate them into his own kingdom of peace and love.

- B. The subjects of this Kingdom are shut up to no particular location. Each in the sphere where providence has called him to reside and to his master's will, may there be truly a member of this invisible kingdom. Christ may be reigning over him, and he may be indeed a subject and a citizen of this kingdom of God.**
- C. This is the kingdom we are required in our text to seek. To seek it, implies that we seek to belong to it--seek to know Christ's will and to do it--seek to be recognized by Christ as one of his subjects, and seek to promote the interests of this kingdom, as all true subjects of any kingdom do, and should do if the government deserves their support. He who truly seeks first the kingdom of God, seeks to be as really and perfectly governed by Christ now, as the holy in Heaven are. He would have Christ living and reigning within him so that every thought shall be brought into obedience.**
- D. We are required, not only to seek the kingdom of God, but also "his righteousness." The original word here rendered righteousness, is sometimes rendered justification. The radical idea seems to be simply this--being right with God--coming into a state of acceptance with him. This we know must in our case include both the free pardon of past sin and the being sanctified so that we are not actually sinning. So long as his law condemns us for unpardoned sin, or so long as we are actually sinning, it would be monstrous to suppose that God can accept us as righteous, and that we are right in his sight.**
- E. Hence, when the righteousness of God as in our text, is spoken of as a thing for us to seek, it must include both pardon and sanctification.**
- F. The command to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness first, enjoins upon us to treat this subject as of absolute and supreme importance. This must be the great business of our lives. Nothing else is allowed to have any practical importance compared with this.**
- G. The injunction--seek God's kingdom first, implies that we seek it first in point of time. It should be the first thing attended to. It is not merely to be admitted as of first importance, but should really be put first in point of time. The first thoughts of each morning should be given to it. And whenever God's word, or his providence brings before our mind the invitations or the claims of this kingdom, we are to remember that now is the accepted time. Now, first in order, before any thing else, let the concerns of your soul with the kingdom of God and his righteousness have the first regard.**
- H. It is also implied that we seek this kingdom with supreme earnestness. This is fully involved in the points just spoken of. We are required to agonize to enter in at the strait gate--to press hard for entrance, with the greatest earnestness, and the most strenuous efforts. Let the soul be indeed in agony to carry the point and make sure of admission into the kingdom of God. To the same purport are very many passages which I might quote from the Scriptures, all going to show that God requires us to seek with all our hearts, to lay out the utmost strength of our souls, if we would successfully resist the devil, and really break the chains of sin, and secure so**



great a treasure as eternal life. (*Charles Finney, Seeking the Kingdom of God First, August 27, 1845*)

IV. #16- JUDGE NOT

Matthew 7

[1] “Judge not, that you be not judged. [2] For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

- A. It’s important that both Christians and non-Christians understand what Jesus means when he says “judge not.” The key is recognizing that the word judge can be used in two different ways in the New Testament. Sometimes judge is used to mean “judge between things,” to differentiate, or discern. In this case we judge between right and wrong, good and evil, righteous and unrighteous.
- B. But this kind of judging-the act of discernment-is not what Jesus is forbidding. In fact throughout the Bible we are commanded to discern. In the same chapter of Luke 6 and in the very same discourse as the famous “judge not” statement, Jesus talks about having the discernment to see the difference between good people and evil people (Luke 6:43-45). He compares them to trees. Good trees, he says, produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit. The call to differentiate good from evil is to judge, to discern, correctly.
- C. This is often what get’s Christians into hot water in our uber-tolerant and increasingly diverse culture. When a Christian labels something as “wrong” or “evil” they are often pounced upon as being judgmental and out of step with Jesus. Sometimes this is the case, as I will discuss below, but very often the accusation is the result of a culture that no longer understands the difference between discernment and condemnation.
- D. He’s calling us to not condemn people, to not pass final judgment and declare them irretrievably guilty. This is an incredibly important idea if you understand the context in which Jesus was speaking. The entire culture of his day was predicated on the notion that some people were acceptable and others were not. And the way you defined yourself, your identity and place in the world, was by comparing and contrasting yourself with others.
- E. So, for example, at that time Jews saw themselves as inherently better or more acceptable to God than non-Jews. They commonly referred to gentiles (non-Jews) as “dogs.” And many Romans had equally dismissive views of the Jews. And these judgments continued even within the each community. Rich people were seen as more blessed and acceptable to God than poor people. The healthy were seen as righteous, and those with diseases or disabilities were judged to be sinners receiving their due.
- F. This is the judgment that Jesus says is absolutely wrong. When we judge/condemn someone we are declaring that they have no value; no worth-that they do not matter to us or God. And we do this as a means of elevating ourselves. This is the judgment that Christ forbids.

V. #17- DO NOT THROW YOUR PEARLS TO PIGS



Matthew 7

[6] “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

A. **Spurgeon** comments that...

It is a pity to talk about some of the secrets of our holy faith in any and every company. It would be almost, profane to speak of them in the company of profane men. We know that they would not understand us; they would find occasion for jest and ridicule, and therefore our own reverence for holy things must cause us to lay a finger on our lips when we are in the presence of profane persons. Do not let us, however, carry out one precept to the exclusion of others. There are dogs that eat of the crumbs that fall from the master's table. Drop them a crumb. And there are even swine that may yet be transformed, learned; to whom the sight of a pearl might give some inkling of a better condition of heart. Cast not the pearls before them, but you may show them to them sometimes when they are in as good a state of mind as they are likely to be in. It is ours to preach the gospel to every creature; that is a precept of Christ, and yet all creatures are not always in the condition to hear the gospel. We must choose our time. Yet even this I would not push too far. We are to preach the gospel in season and out of season. Oh! that we may be able to follow precepts as far as they are meant to go, and no further.

B. The commands of Christ are meant to hold us within the tension... There are scriptures that command us to preach in season and out of season, and scriptures commanding us not to throw our revelation to those not receptive, verses commanding us to preach to all men, and verses commanding us not to judge, and verses commanding us to judge the fruit. The glory of Christ is found in the tension! He offers us the free gift of salvation, and it will cost you everything. It's glory is found in the strain of what looks like to opposite extremes. This is the beauty of Jesus. Let's not settle for a caricature of Gospel. Rather let's wrestle through until we are altered by the power of Christ.