

Week of December 13, 2009

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## **Monday**

John 1:40-42 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah"... He brought him to Jesus.

Christmas is a great time to find a brother and bring him to Jesus (or a sister for that matter). God has planned the three way intersections between you and Jesus and another. It is providential. You are a special link. You have been placed next to particular others so that you can bring them to Jesus. Andrew brought his brother, Peter. Philip brought Nathaniel. Who will you bring? Perhaps the waitperson at the restaurant you frequent, the cashier at the market, the neighbor, the coworker across the room, or a fellow student. Who has God linked you with?

## **Tuesday**

Mal. 4:5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah... "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers..."

The story of Christmas has always had a 'family' aspect to it. Jesus was not dropped in a desert, but born into a family. He was purposely placed with a particular mother and father, later joined by brothers and sisters. This Christmas families will gather and give gifts in honor of the Savior. What gift will you bring to your family? What lasting grace might you impart? How will you witness to your family this Christmas? How will you show them Jesus? Do they see the personality of Christ in you throughout the year? Are there relationships you need to repair? Pray, witness, and live out your faith before your family.

## **Wednesday**

Mark 1:2 "Behold, I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'"

Believers are to be facilitators of grace. Our lives are to be lived in such a way, our words are to be spoken in every instance in a way that makes it easier for people to come to Jesus, easier for them to trust, easier for them to connect with a church, easier for them to join in the family. Too often we push others away. Sometimes cripple with words, sometime we paralyze by our actions. Too often, we become barriers instead of bridges of grace. God has a better calling for you.

## **Thursday**

Matt. 3:4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

John was an odd instrument of God. He dressed differently, ate differently, and acted quite differently from those around him. Yet it was this oddity that drew people to him and to his Lord. God's people are supposed to stand out from the rest. Not so much in style and food, but in nature, attitude, ethic, and priorities. Too many of us have lost that difference. We gripe as the world gripes. Fuss as the world fusses. We raise our children, conduct our marriages, do business, and even play church just like the world. Instead of honey to draw others to Christ, we are vinegar souring their taste for God. Are you different? How so?

## **Friday**

Matt. 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Who was your Elijah? Who was your John the Baptist? Who pointed you to Jesus making it easy for you to find Him? Was there more than one? I'm not just speaking of the one who prayed the 'sinner's prayer' with you, but of everyone who smoothed the path of grace. Someone, perhaps, who explained the Faith to you. Someone who broke down a barrier of unbelief or taught you that love was real. Who did God send to you to prepare the way for Jesus? Stop right now and give thanks for them. Now, you go prepare the way for someone to meet Him.