

Galatians – Part II

How to Be a Catalyst for Glory – Galatians 2:13-24

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- Can you think of a modern-day example of someone who experienced a tragedy or a public sin or failure, but turned that black time into a catalyst for the glory of God? Explain.

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Galatians 1:13-14.
 - Why do you think Paul was so passionately opposed to Christianity before his encounter with Jesus?
- Read Galatians 1:15-19 and Jude 3
 - According to the end of verse 16, for what purpose did the Lord save Paul?
 - Why did Paul not first go to the apostles in Jerusalem?
 - What is our authority? Where do we turn when we want to know the truth? How does the world often struggle with the revealed truth of God’s word?
- Read Matthew 13:44-46.
 - What is the one big message these two brief parables teach?
 - What, if any, is the difference in what the parables communicate?
 - How is your experience like the first parable? Second parable?
- Read Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 5:25.
 - Why is the verb “transform” in Romans 12:2 in the passive form? Who does the work of transforming our minds?
 - What is God’s primary tool (at least the one mentioned in these passages) for transforming our minds?
 - What are the connections between “renewing your mind” in Romans 12:2 and “washing” in Ephesians 5:25?

Respond

- If someone shared with you their disappointment and shame connected to their failure, sin, or tragedy, how would you counsel them in light of Paul’s story in Galatians 1?
- How can we make our failure, sin, or tragedy a catalyst for others to glorify God?

Bonus for Thinkers

- What did Paul really do in Arabia for three years? Why three years? What was the purpose? What was the value?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (2/10)	Galatians 1:11-24
Tuesday (2/11)	Matthew 10:34-11:19
Wednesday (2/12)	Matthew 11:20-12:14
Thursday (2/13)	Matthew 12:15-21
Friday (2/14)	Matthew 13:1-23

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (2/10) — Galatians 1:11-24

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (2/11) — Matthew 10:34 – 11:19

- Jesus uses pretty strong language in 10:34-39 to emphasize the priority of our commitment to him. What do you think Jesus means when he speaks of the “cross” in 10:38? With that in mind, re-write 10:39 in your own words.
- Write down the last time you did something that fits the description in 10:42. What is a way you can do a 10:42 kind of service this week?
- According to the short statement at the end of 11:19, how do we judge if something is wise?

Wednesday (2/12) — Matthew 11:20 - 12:14

- According to 11:20-24, how serious does the Lord take the sin of rejecting him? According to Jesus’ words, what makes the consequences of this sin even worse for some people?
- There is a phrase in 11:28 that describes stress and anxiety: “All who labor and are heavy laden.” What does Jesus say in 11:28 that an anxious and stressed person should do? What does he say in the same verse that he will do for that stressed person?
- We learn from 12:1-13 that the Sabbath was meant to be a blessing not a curse. Write down some of the obvious benefits of setting aside one day out of seven as a day of rest, worship, and fellowship with loved ones.
- In 11:29, Jesus says that experiencing “rest for your soul” is not just the result of a decision, it is also the result of learning. Learning takes time. Learning is a process. This verse teaches us that finding rest for our soul is a process. Think about how you have “progressed.” As you have learned more about walking with Jesus, how have you experienced more and more “rest for your soul?”

Thursday (2/13) — Matthew 12:15-21

- 12:33-35 says we can know much about a person by listening to the words he uses and the things he talks about. Based on what comes from your mouth, what conclusions would your co-workers or acquaintances draw about who you really are on the inside?
- Jesus teaches about the danger of careless words (12:36-37). Re-read 12:36 and make a list of the times in the last couple of days you have used careless words of criticism, gossip, vulgarity, exaggeration, etc. Confess each of these instances to the Lord.
- Most of us who are doing these devotions call ourselves “Christians” because we identify ourselves as being in the family of God. What evidence is there in your life that you are really in the family of God? Re-read 12:50 for a hint at the kind of evidence we should be able to point to.

Friday (2/14) — Matthew 13:1-23

- The seed that fell on rocky ground (13:5, 20-21) represents those who hear the word but fail to establish deep roots. Write down some ways you can allow God’s word to really set down roots in your life.
- Some seed fell on the thorny ground (13:7, 22). What are some of the thorns that could potentially choke out the growth and influence of God’s word in your life?
- The seed that fell on good soil (13:8, 23) produced a great harvest of fruit. As you spend time each morning in these devotions allowing the seed of God’s word to take root in your life, what is some of the fruit you hope you will bear? Write it down. Ask the Lord to produce that fruit in your life.