



## PART 6: Becoming an Example

### Pastor Charles Kiefer

**WARM UP QUESTION:** What are you currently imitating in your life and therefore being an example of?

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7

#### OBSERVE:

1. The kind of men we proved to be among you.
  - a. People mocked and accused Jesus, and in the midst of affliction He prayed for the scoffers. The people became imitators of Paul in his suffering too. They became imitators of the Lord. When you imitate God, you become an example of joy in spite of affliction.
2. So that you became an example to all the believers.
  - a. They were: Relationship Oriented (Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and with the church (1 Thess. 1:1), Collaborative (Acts 15:32), Cross-Cultural (Acts 20:4), Prayerful (1 Thess. 1:2), Faith-filled, hopeful, and loving. Our motives must come from a pure heart and boldly endured suffering
3. Fix your eyes on Jesus; He will be your example
  - a. It's not about how you respond when you're on top, but where your joy come from when you're in the valley. There are a lot of miscommunications, conflicts, and struggles in life, but in the middle of it all, God is working in you and through you. You don't have to be a victim but a victor.

- b. It is God's great love that helps us climb mountains and walk through valleys. There is a joy available for us if we will take it. God is happy and wants His people to be happy. God wants to use both joy and happiness to lift our eyes.

#### APPLY:

- Which one of the 8 characteristics in the second point do I need to improve on the most?
- How can we draw on the resources God provides for us in order to find joy in the midst of affliction?
- Is there anybody in my church or workplace that I can imitate that would help me be more like God?

#### TAKE ACTION:

Reflect on the point that 'God is happy and wants His people to be happy'. Ask God to adjust your attitude to change your outlook in life. What are ways you can find joy in the midst of the difficulties of life, and allow God's joy to change your perspective?

**PRAY:** *Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the great joy that is ours through Christ Jesus. Please help us, Lord to fix our eyes on You in order to find true joy and lead by example. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*