

01262020. Going Deeper! Going Deeper with Jesus is an ongoing intentional willingness to learn more about Him and go deeper in your trust and knowledge of him... **week one...** God is ever present and will never leave us nor forsake us...he is deeply involved in your present life... and that means your intentional decisions in the NOW of your life have great influence in your destiny..... and that means we must handle the now well... **your past links to your present...your now...however it is your intentional now that links to your future.** your past decisions got you to today...your now decisions will predict your future... **week 2)** Going Deeper with Jesus requires Trust and Trust is another word for faith...and Faith is quantative...much faith, little faith, increase our faith...and one of the ways faith is increased or deepened...is through the wonderful promises we as children of God are given in Scripture. But there is a catch...These great promises usually do not include explanations for how they will unfold. **When things do not unfold as we thought they would we are prompted us to ask questions.**

- **These Questions will make us think deeper about God and scripture...going deeper is valuable. It is part of the process of deepening our Faith and maturing our understanding of God.**

**This week...Going deeper requires perseverance...**to understand the depth of any endeavor... intentional persistence is needed...Perseverance is needed....

Psalm 42: 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

- Perseverance is gaining success a little at a time.... gaining knowledge over time...gaining wisdom over time...which by the way builds character and a good reputation.....

...Success in a short period of time usually builds Pride...prideful people never have a good reputation.

For 40 years Moses thought he was somebody...for forty years he thought he was a nobody and for forty years God showed him he could use a nobody...

*Ex 33:12 One day Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But you haven’t told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’<sup>13</sup> If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your*

very own people.”<sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

- **He persevered forty years in leading the most stubborn of people....People who persevere don't get stuck in the problem they overcome it by getting into solution**

*Ex 33:1* The LORD said to Moses, “Get going, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt. Go up to the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I told them, ‘I will give this land to your descendants.’<sup>2</sup> And I will send an angel before you to drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.<sup>3</sup> Go up to this land that flows with milk and honey. But I will not travel among you, for you are a stubborn and rebellious people. If I did, I would surely destroy you along the way.”

- **Life is rife with hurt, disappointment, betrayal, pain, unexpected trouble...**
- **We must be able to adapt and overcome...**

*Ex 33:15* Then Moses said, “If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place.<sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.”<sup>17</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.”

- **listen to this story of the prophet Jeremiah...who had been prophesying about God fulfilling his promise to the people....and their continued rebellion and the coming consequences...consequences..for falling away from the Lord...**

*Jeremiah 11:1* The LORD **gave another message** to Jeremiah. He said,<sup>2</sup> “Remind the people of Judah and Jerusalem about the terms of my covenant with them.<sup>3</sup> Say to them, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **Cursed is anyone who does not obey the terms of my covenant!**<sup>4</sup> For I said to your ancestors when I brought them out of the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt, “If you obey me and do whatever I command you, then you will be my people, and I will be your God.”<sup>5</sup> I said this so I could keep my promise to your ancestors to give you a land flowing with milk and honey—the land you live in today.’” Then I replied, “Amen, LORD! May it be so.”

- **Result No repentance... It only got worse... until people from his home town threatened to kill him if he did not stop preaching t them...**
- **Preserving is all good until it gets real personal...**

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD told me about the plots my enemies were making against me. <sup>19</sup> I was like a lamb being led to the slaughter. I had no idea that they were planning to kill me! “Let’s destroy this man and all his words,” they said. “Let’s cut him down, so his name will be forgotten forever.”

- **The lords response is he will take care of them in his time...**
- **Jeremiah Questions the LORD’s response...now is a good time for judgment let's start with my enemies?**

*Jeremiah 12:1 LORD, you always give me justice when I bring a case before you. So let me bring you this complaint: Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why are evil people so happy? <sup>2</sup> You have planted them, and they have taken root and prospered. Your name is on their lips, but you are far from their hearts.*

*<sup>3</sup> But as for me, LORD, you know my heart. You see me and test my thoughts. Drag these people away like sheep to be butchered! Set them aside to be slaughtered!*

*<sup>4</sup> How long must this land mourn? Even the grass in the fields has withered. The wild animals and birds have disappeared because of the evil in the land.*

*For the people have said, “The LORD doesn’t see what’s ahead for us!”*

- **The lord's reponse to Jeremiah's reasoned assessment of the situation.....**

*Jeremiah 12: <sup>5</sup> “If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you race against horses?*

*If you stumble and fall on open ground, what will you do in the thickets near the Jordan?*

- **People from his home town are making threats against him...AND GOD SAYS KEEP ON KEEPING ON....**
- **who have learned to persevere can be counted on when the going is rough..TO KEEP GOING**
- **there was much more for Jeremiah to accomplish...restoration and inclusion of all nations...**

*Jer 12:14 Now this is what the LORD says: “I will uproot from their land all the evil nations reaching out for the possession I gave my people Israel. And I will uproot Judah from among them. <sup>15</sup> But afterward I will return and have compassion on all of them. I will bring them home to their own lands again, each nation to its own possession. <sup>16</sup> And if these nations truly learn the ways of my people, and if they learn to swear by my name, saying, ‘As surely as the LORD lives’ (just as they taught my people to swear by the name of Baal), then they will be given a place among my people.*

- Perseverance takes courage...to keep moving in the face of obstacles
- **He wanted what we all want...the quick fix...the easy way**

**noun: quick fix; an easy remedy or solution, especially a temporary one which fails to address underlying problems. an expedient, temporary solution, especially one that merely postpones having to cope with an overall problem.**

**Perseverance is the enemy of the easy way.. And the easy way is the enemy of Perseverance**

**I once heard a preacher say that when we are faced with a really difficult decision, Satan often presents us with a seemingly easy alternative. The only catch is that this easy option always requires a moral compromise**

**Ever notice we don't drift into perseverance... it is not natural for us to drift into perseverance...we must use discipline and prioritize ourselves there...that is how we move into the goals we want...**

**So First...We must learn to persevere the verb per·se·vere means To persist in, or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.**

**first of all understand this.. Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another. ~Walter Elliott, *The Spiritual Life***

- **You know what that means? it means to do your daily what I need to do daily!! Apparently that which is truly worthwhile is almost by definition something not obtained instantly, In fact, most tools of instant gratification are destructive (drugs, alcohol, t.v., sex, crime.)**

**So Perseverance is necessary in the journey toward success: Moses had to learn this lesson...God helping him to take over the land God promised the Israelites..**

*EX 23: 27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and create panic among all the people whose lands you invade. I will make all your enemies turn and run. 28 I will send terror ahead of you to drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, and Hittites. 29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals would multiply and threaten you. 30 I will drive them out a little at a time until your population has increased enough to take possession of the land.*

- **Success is incremental. it is one thing gain territory it is another to manage what you now possess well...**

- **Conquering is not the same thing as inhabiting...conquering a habit is one thing learning to live without that habit ...takes learning a whole new set of skills...**
- **Most people take years, even decades, to build a great career. Why? there are many failures on the way to success...**
- You and I we have territory too...draw circle around yourself that is your first territory...wherever you go that is your first territory to conquer . and then learn to manage well everything else.....
- **David nears death, he appoints as king his son Solomon, who is 12 -16 years old at the time, with these words:**

*1KI 2: 1 As the time of King David's death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon: <sup>2</sup> "I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. **Take courage and be a man.** <sup>3</sup> Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go. <sup>4</sup> If you do this, then the LORD will keep the promise he made to me. He told me, 'If your descendants live as they should and follow me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.'*

**This classic blessing is often quoted by fathers to their sons on the day of their Bar Mitzvah. It restates the cardinal rule that has guided the Jewish people from the time of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai: in order to prosper keep the Torah.**

**Shortly after Solomon is anointed king, God appears to him in a dream in which He invites Solomon to make a request for himself. Solomon answers:**

*1KI 3: <sup>5</sup> That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!" <sup>6</sup> Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.*

*<sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, **but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around.** <sup>8</sup> And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! <sup>9</sup> Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the*

*difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?” His request pleases God who tells him:*

*1KI 3: 10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!*

*1KI 4:29 29 God gave Solomon very great wisdom and understanding, and knowledge as vast as the sands of the seashore.*

**His great mind had three attributes...all of which took time to achieve**

1. *Gave... incrementally remember he was about 16 or so*
2. **wisdom: the ability to apply knowledge at the right time and place**
3. **understanding: knew what would happen next...if a course of action was taken**
4. **knowledge: He knew a lot about a lot of things...studied life**
5. **The secret is to work every single day, and remember that even small wins can boost your life tremendously.**
6. **Over time, you'll find yourself reaching bigger and bigger goals.**

end

- **Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.** Or as the French proverb says... One may go a long way after one is tired.

Hebrews 12: <sup>11</sup> *No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way* <sup>12</sup> *So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees.* <sup>13</sup> *Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.*

- **Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew. Saint Francis de Sales**
- **to realize that the Lord has purpose in all He does and can be trusted in what he does and that those who wait patiently for his promise to happen will never be disappointed.**

**Is vitally important if we hope to have soundness of mind...and the heart to persevere when times are discouraging...**

**Today in Matt chapter 15 we will examine five principles we can apply in our lives about persevering in faith even when facing great discouragement...**

**After Jesus rebuked the religious establishment...for caring more about their religious traditions than God and people.**

**So he move northwest into non Jewish territory...to get away from the pressure of the Pharisees and spend some time with his apostles...the area was strongly Pagan**

**Let's pick up the narrative...Jesus left the lake of Galilee and Gennesaret traveled northeast about 40-50 miles to the region of Tyre...Gentile area...**

*MT 15: 21 Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely." 23 But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging."*

**\*\*\*First principle of perservering...There are always imposing obstacles to any worthwhile goal!**

- The woman is desperate and comes to Jesus begging Him to drive the evil spirit out of her daughter.

The odds were stacked against her

- First of all...she is a woman ...and according to Jewish rule...a teacher/rabbi was not even supposed to talk to a woman, other than a family member.
- Second...she was a Gentile pagan worshipping woman...despised by the Jews.. and they were prejudiced against the Jews...She is a Gentile woman born in a Gentile city and living in Gentile territory. She is in a desperate situation because her daughter is 'possessed' by an evil spirit.
- What does it look like for a little girl to be possessed by an evil spirit? Mark chapter 9 describes a boy who is possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit in his body would often try to throw him into the fire or the water in order to kill him. The boy could not speak because of the evil spirit. The evil spirit would seize him and throw him to the ground and the boy would foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and become rigid. If this possession is anything like the boy in Mark 9 then this is not a good thing.
- Third she was from Tyre...the people of this city state have a long history of causing great trouble to the Israelites They are mention derogatorily by a number of the Prophets...
- Those are some overwhelming obstacles!! expect them

she would not let these obstacles stop her.....

**\*\*\*Which leads us to the the Second principle of perservering ... refuse to give up!**

**... pursue the goal... anything worthwhile is not Easy and usually not quickly attained!!**

*MT 15: 23 But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging."*

She had a great problem... she had tried every means in her power and she believed Jesus could help...problem was he would not speak to her...and the apostles tried to chase her away



- You see when she first approached the Lord...she called him the Son of David.. The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...
- she hopped on the wagon of referring to him as someone she was affiliated with...she didn't!...she tried to smooze him...the easy way! appeal to his pride!
  - Jesus responded with silence to her pleas...
  - The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...
- She was neither ...Jew or Jewish believer...
- She approached him as a member of his family....and she was not...it was in a sense arrogant...an assumption that they were somehow relationally tied

*MT 15: 24* Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel.”

Which leads us to the...

### **\*\*\*Third principle of Persevering: Timing is in God's hands...\*\*\***

- When Jesus does speak ...he says he was not sent to help her...and he calls her a dog...**The dogs in this incident represent the gentiles. Dogs were considered 'unclean' animals and Jews would often refer to Gentiles in this derogatory way**
  - He said First therefore there must be a second...second would be good!! and if I have to wait...I will wait!!
  - well there might not be a quick fix...nor the fix in my timing...
  - **You can't fly by the seat of your pants or your assumptions and hope to land on success. You need a process and a plan to get you there. Jesus gave her the way!**
  - She had nothing going for her...she was not one of the children and therefore entitled to their bread...what they are entitled too..
  - Kind of ruins the idea...the idea that Jesus owes anyone.... we sometimes have that Jesus just can't wait to help the way we want help... whenever we call...
  - Also clarifies the idea that somehow Jesus owes you...or me or her...
- And her response to him...when he called her a dog... one of humility...|no defensiveness**

### **\*\*\*\*Fourth principle of perserevance:Be Humble and Teachable**

*MT 15: 25* But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!”

**She humbled herself...knelt before him and worshipped him as her master... called Him Master...**

- **Straight to the point... No religious son of David stuff.**
- **But please master help me....**
- **When Jesus does speak listen!!**

*Matt 15:26* Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.”

- **Mark gives us a bit more information:**

*Mark 27* “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

- Mark give greater insight...

[Mark 7:27](#) Jesus **told** her, “First I should feed **the** children—my own family, **the** Jews. It isn’t right **to** take food from **the** children and throw it **to the dogs.**”

- Her Reply...

[Matthew 15:27](#) She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even **dogs** are allowed **to** eat **the** scraps that fall beneath **their** masters’ table.”

**She did not let her pride get in the way of the mission ...nor her learning**

- **I will joyfully wait my turn to receive after the children any of the leftovers they drop from the table...I don't need to be first!**
- **Even a crumb of his bread was better than what she had...and more than enough for her daughter...**
- **She did not have the credentials of a child of the King ..but her response..even a pet dog is in the family and receives some food and is cared for...**
- **She appealed to His goodness...his Mercy...His compassion**
- **Even a little power from him...would be more than enough.**
- **I will receive whatever you give me.**

Many of life's failures occur with people who did not realize how close they were to success but pride took them out...Stay humble and teachable it is the path to the finish.....

**\*\*\*Fourth principle of perserveranc...Obey and walk in Faith**

*Niv... MT 15: 28 Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.*

*NLT Matt 15: 29 "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." 30 And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.*

- **Only twice in the Gospels...Jesus remarks that someone's faith is great...both times they are Gentiles...both times he healed from afar...**
- **She went in obedience to his word..even though she had not seen any evidence, that her daughter was healed**
- **That is faith...and obedience...**
- **She went fully intending to see the word of the Lord fulfilled. And found it so..as the Gospel of Mark shares!!**

**This lady searched and searched and she finally found.. they were both given a new life!! What Jesus did for them was more than they could have imagined!!**

- **Each one of us is on the next step of our personal development don't give up before reaching the goal...and know much learning and change must occur in the journey on the way to the destination...**
- **this lady would have never chosen the Jesus way...if she had not experienced the fruitlessness of all the other ways...it was part of her learning and humbling ...to bring her to the one who could do for her and her daughter which she could not do herself or by her means or by her timing!!**
- **So expect obstacles...obey what you know...wait on God's timing...believe before you experience...trust the process...abandon the idea of the easy way and the quick fix...**

*James 1:4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**We are in a long line of historical persevering saints let us align ourselves with those who know how to persevere!!**

end

**We are in a long line of historical persevering saints let us align ourselves with those who know how to persevere!! To Do what the ancients did and do what your contemporaries are doing...walking in faith!! hoping in something not yet realized...but confident it will happen!**

- **Now...is a present tense word...the time is now**
- **these ancients were certain of God's word being true...even when there was no visible evidence of it yet in the natural...**
- **all the way up too and including not realizing it in their lifetime.. it is still true and will come to pass..**

*Heb 11:* <sup>39</sup> All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. <sup>40</sup> For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

- **The present receiving of the promises means absolutely nothing in regards to it happening...we just do not see it yet!!!**
- **Their confidence and hope toward were rooted in God's promises period...how when and where was left in his hands.**

- **So they persevered...many of them not knowing that the completion would include others many generations in the future... we were to be included in those promises!!**

Hebrews 11:1-2 tells us

*HEB 11:1 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. <sup>2</sup> Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.*

@@@@

I have learned the difference between intent and impact—you can have good intentions, but that doesn't always translate into helpful, gracious impact.”

We add value by being Resilient

- Resilient people add value because they don't get stuck in the problem they overcome it by getting into solution
- Life is rife with hurt, disappointment, betrayal, pain, unexpected trouble...
- We must be able to adapt and overcome...either our habits or God will rule us
- Character is revealed by Crisis...we grow only through pain...you grow your relationships grow
- Your Credibility is determined in war...Credibility is not about what you say or even what you start...it is obtained by how you handle crisis
- Being resilient teaches us to be good stewards over God's highest creation...PEOPLE

**Jeremiah 12: 5** *“If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble[a] in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by[b] the Jordan?”*

- Resilient people can be counted on when the going is rough..for they can handle change...
- Being Resilient takes courage...to keep moving in the face of obstacles
- Resilient people add value because they don't get stuck in the problem they overcome it by getting into solution

@@@@@

040217 **The Pitfall of searching for the easy way!!** part 2

Last week part 1 of the pitfall of searching for the Easy Way... I have learned the hard way that there is no such thing as the easy way... There is no easy way to do it but there is a right way. Cutting corners does not get you to the desired end you want but it will get you to an end...an end we don't desire...

**beware of the quick fix; a noun ...an easy remedy or solution, especially a temporary one which fails to address underlying problems. an expedient, temporary solution, especially one that merely postpones having to cope with an overall problem.**

**Perseverance is the enemy of the easy way.. And the easy way is the enemy of Perseverance**

Ever notice we don't drift into perseverance... it is not natural for us to drift into perseverance...we must use discipline and prioritize ourselves there...that is how we move into the goals we want...

**So ...We must learn to persevere** the verb *per·se·vere* means To persist in, or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

**first of all understand this..Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another.** ~Walter Elliott, *The Spiritual Life*

- **You know what that means? it means to do your daily what I need to do daily!!** Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did. Or as the French proverb says... One may go a long way after one is tired.
- **don't start down a path simply to move forward. do it to succeed**

**Here is a saying you must repeat often** when you get weary from moving forward toward any of goals. "**God did not bring me this far to only go this far!**" when things get hard, we must double down and remind ourselves of how hard we have worked and how far we have come to get to where we are today.... we must keep going

*Hebrews 6:<sup>11</sup> We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. <sup>12</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

- **diligence...the thoroughness and attentiveness we start with toward a goal...must be maintained until the goal is reached!!...our tendency is to become lazy...**
- **in the context of this passage...it is about holding onto belief.. but the principle holds for all endeavors**

- **imitate those who have gone before and achieved...copy them!**
- **those who wait patiently/perservere will not be disappointed.**
- **these ancients were certain of God's promises... those who wait patiently/persevere will not be disappointed.**
- **Apparently that which is truly worthwhile is almost by definition something not obtained instantly, In fact, most tools of instant gratification are destructive (drugs, alcohol, t.v., sex, crime.)**

**So Perseverance is necessary in the journey toward success: Moses had to learn this lesson...God helping him to take over the land God promised the Israelites..**

*EX 23: 27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. 28 I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. 29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.*

**Success is incremental. Overnight success is seriously rare and usually not lasting Most people take years, even decades, to build a great career.**

- **The secret is to work every single day, and remember that even small wins can boost your life tremendously.**
- **Over time, you'll find yourself accomplishing bigger and bigger goals.**

as we started last week in Matt chapter 15 we will examine five principles we can apply in our lives about persevering in faith even when facing great discouragement...

After Jesus rebuked the religious establishment...for caring more about their religious traditions than God and people.

So he move northwest into non Jewish territory...to get away from the pressure of the Pharisees and spend some time with his apostles...the area was strongly Pagan

Let's pick up the narrative...Jesus left the lake of Galilee and Gennesaret traveled north east about 40-50 miles to the region of Tyre...Gentile area...

*MT 15: 21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."*

**\*\*\*First principle of persevering...There are always imposing obstacles to any worthwhile goal!**

- **The woman is desperate and comes to Jesus begging Him to drive the evil spirit out of her daughter.**

The odds were stacked against her

- **First of all...she is a woman ...and according to Jewish rule...a teacher/rabbi was not even supposed to talk to a woman, other than a family member.**
- **Second...she was a Gentile pagan worshipping woman...**
- **Third she was from Tyre...the people of this city state have a long history of causing great trouble to the Israelites They are mention derogatorily by a number of the Prophets...**
- **Those are some overwhelming obstacles!! expect them**

she would not let these obstacles stop her.....

**\*\*\*Which leads us to the the Second principle of perservering ... refuse to give up!  
... pursue the goal... anything worthwhile is not Easy and usually not quickly attained!!**

- **Remind yourself that all of the struggle--and all of the victory up to this point--will be for nothing if I quit now. So I keep going.**

*MT 15: 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."*

**She had a great problem... she had tried every means in her power and she believed Jesus could help...problem was he would not speak to her...and the apostles tried to chase her away**

knowing that what works in one circumstance may not work in another. Progress is always a fluid process, and the road to goal achievement is highly personal and individual.

- **You see when she first approached the Lord...she called him the Son of David.. The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...**
- **she hopped on the wagon of referring to him as someone she was affiliated with...she didn't!...she tried to smooze him...the easy way! appeal to his pride!**
  - **Jesus responded with silence to her pleas...**
  - **The term Son of David refers to the Messiah...it was strictly a Jewish religious belief...**
- **She was neither ...Jew or Jewish believer...**
- **She approached him as a member of his family....and she was not...it was in a sense arrogant...an assumption that they were somehow relationally tied**

*MT 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." ...*

**Which leads us to the...**



### **\*\*\*\*Third principle of Persevering: Timing is in God's hands...**

- When Jesus does speak ...he says he was not sent to help her...and he calls her a dog...**The dogs in this incident represent the gentiles. Dogs were considered 'unclean' animals and Jews would often refer to Gentiles in this derogatory way**
- He said First therefore there must be a second...second would be good!! and if I have to wait...I will wait!!
- well there might not be a quick fix...nor the fix in my timing...
- **You can't fly by the seat of your pants or your assumptions and hope to land on success. You need a process and a plan to get you there. Jesus gave her the way!**
- She had nothing going for her...she was not one of the children and therefore entitled to their bread...what they are entitled too..
- Kind of ruins the idea...the idea that Jesus owes anyone.... we sometimes have that Jesus just can't wait to help the way we want help... whenever we call...
- Also clarifies the idea that somehow Jesus owes you...or me or her...

**And her response to him...when he called her a dog... one of humility...no defensiveness**

### **\*\*\*\*Fourth principle of perserevance:Be Humble and Teachable**

*MT 15: 25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.*

- **knowing that what works in one circumstance may not work in another. Progress is always a fluid process, and the road to goal achievement is highly personal and individual.**
- **it is true... I am not n the lineage or family of David to you...no more fake religious son of David stuff.**
- **but you are still Lord or master to me...**
- **She humbled herself...knelt before him ...HELP ME**

**When Jesus does speak listen!!**

*Matt 15:26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."*

- **Mark gives us a bit more information: he said first...**

*Mark 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."*

**Many of life's failures occur with people who did not realize how close they were to success but pride took them out...Stay humble and teachable it is the path to the finish.....**

*MT 15:27 "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."*

- She did not let her pride get in the way of the mission ...nor her learning
- I will joyfully wait my turn to receive after the children any of the leftovers they drop from the table...I don't need to be first!
- Even a crumb of his bread was better than what she had...and more than enough for her daughter...
- She did not have the credentials of a child of the King ..but her response..even a pet dog is in the family and receives some food and is cared for...
- She appealed to His goodness...his Mercy...His compassion
- Even a little power from him...would be more than enough.
- I will receive whatever you give me.

**Stay humble and teachable it is the path to the finish.....**

**\*\*\*Fourth principle of perserveranc...Obey and walk in Faith**

*MT 15: 28* Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

- Only twice in the Gospels...Jesus remarks that someone's faith is great...both times they are Gentiles...both times he healed from afar...
- She went in obedience to his word..even though she had not seen any evidence, that her daughter was healed
- That is faith...and obedience...
- She went fully intending to see the word of the Lord fulfilled. And found it so..as the Gospel of Mark shares!!

*MK 7:30* She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

- she had Figured out what she really wanted. she had a crystal clear vision of your desired future state....but God had much more for her...
- This lady searched and searched and she finally found.. they were both given a new life!! What Jesus did for them was more than they could have imagined!!
- Each one of us is on the next step of our personal development don't give up before reaching that goal...
- and know much learning and change must occur in the journey on the way to the destination...
- this lady would have never chosen the Jesus way...if she had not experienced the fruitlessness of all the other ways...it was part of her learning and humbling ...to

bring her to the one who could do for her and her daughter which she could not do herself or by her means or by her timing!!

- So expect obstacles...obey what you know...wait on God's timing...believe before you experience...trust the process...abandon the idea of the easy way and the quick fix...

*James 1:4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

@@@@@

# 9 Skills You Should Learn That Pay Dividends Forever

Some of the most important skills in life are not taught in school. Here are 9 you won't want to miss out on.

By Travis Bradberry

*Emotional Intelligence 2.0*

The further along you are in your career, the easier it is to fall back on the assumption that you've made it and have all the skills you need to succeed. The tendency is to focus all your energy on getting the job done, assuming that the rest will take care of itself. Big mistake.

New research from Stanford tells the story. Carol Dweck and her colleagues conducted a study with people who were struggling with their performance. One group was taught to perform better on a task that they had been performing poorly. The other group received a completely different intervention: For the task that they performed poorly, they were taught that they weren't stuck and that improving their performance was a choice. They

discovered that learning produces physiological changes in the brain, just like exercise changes muscles. All they had to do was believe in themselves and make it happen.

When the groups' performance was reassessed a few months later, the group that was taught to perform the task better did even worse. The group that was taught that they had the power to change their brains and improve their performance themselves had improved dramatically.

The primary takeaway from Dweck's research is that we should never stop learning. The moment we think that we are who we are is the moment we give away our unrealized potential.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." --Mahatma Gandhi

The act of learning is every bit as important as what you learn. Believing that you can improve yourself and do things in the future that are beyond your current possibilities is exciting and fulfilling.

Still, your time is finite, and you should dedicate yourself to learning skills that will yield the greatest benefit. There are nine skills that I believe fill the bill because they never stop paying dividends. These are the skills that deliver the biggest payoff, both in terms of what they teach you and their tendency to keep the learning alive.

1. **Emotional intelligence (EQ).** EQ is the "something" in each of us that is a bit intangible. It affects how we manage behavior, navigate social complexities, and make personal decisions that achieve positive results. EQ is your ability to recognize and understand emotions in yourself and others and your ability to use this awareness to manage your behavior and relationships. Decades of research now point to EQ as the critical factor that sets star performers apart from the rest of the pack. It's a powerful way to focus your energy in one direction, with tremendous results.

**TalentSmart** tested EQ alongside 33 other important workplace skills and found that EQ is the strongest predictor of performance, explaining a full 58 percent of success in all types of jobs. Of all the people we've studied at work, we've found that 90 percent of top performers are also high in EQ. On the flip side, just 20% of bottom performers are high in EQ. You can be a top performer without EQ, but the chances are slim. Naturally, people with a high degree of EQ make more money, an average of \$29,000 more per year than people with a low degree of emotional intelligence. The link between EQ and

earnings is so direct that every point increase in EQ adds \$1,300 to an annual salary. Increasing your EQ won't just pad your bank account; it'll make you happier and less stressed as well.

**2. Time management.** One of the biggest things that get in the way of effective time management is the "tyranny of the urgent." This refers to the tendency of little things that have to be done right now to get in the way of what really matters. When you succumb to it, you spend so much time putting out fires that you never get any real work done. How many times have you left work at the end of the day, only to realize that you didn't move the important things along even one inch? Learning to manage your time effectively frees you up to perform at your absolute highest level, and it does so every single day of your life.

**3. Listening.** This one should be easy. If we're not talking, we're listening, right? Well, not exactly. A lot of times, we *think* we're listening, but we're actually planning what we're going to say next. True listening means focusing solely on what the other person is saying. It's about understanding, not rebuttal or input. Learning how to suspend judgment and focus on understanding the other person's input is one of the most important skills you can develop.

**Listening is a bit like intelligence--most everyone thinks they're above average (even though that's impossible).** A study at Wright State University surveyed more than 8,000 people from different verticals, and almost all rated themselves as listening as well as or better than their co-workers. We know intuitively that many of them were wrong.

There's so much talking happening at work that opportunities to listen abound. We talk to provide feedback, explain instructions, and communicate deadlines. Beyond the spoken words, there's invaluable information to be deciphered through tone of voice, body language, and what isn't said. In other words, failing to keep your ears (and eyes) open could leave you out of the game.

**4. Saying no.** Research conducted at the University of California, San Francisco, showed that the more difficulty you have saying no, the more likely you are to experience stress, burnout, and even depression. Saying no is indeed a major challenge for many people. *No* is a powerful word that you should not be afraid to wield. When it's time to say no, avoid phrases such as *I don't think I can* or *I'm not certain*. Saying no to a new commitment honors your existing commitments and gives you the opportunity to successfully fulfill them. When you learn to say no, you free yourself from unnecessary constraints and free up your time and energy for the important things in life.

**5. Asking for help.** It might seem counterintuitive to suggest that asking for help is a skill, but it is. It takes a tremendous amount of confidence and humility to admit that you need assistance. This skill is critical, because the last thing a leader wants are employees who keep on trucking down the wrong path because they are too embarrassed or proud to admit that they don't know what they're doing. The ability to recognize when you need help, summon up the courage to ask for it, and follow through on that help is an extremely valuable skill.

**6. Getting high-quality sleep.** We've always known that quality sleep is good for your brain, but recent research from the University of Rochester demonstrated exactly how so. The study found that when you sleep, your brain removes toxic proteins, which are by-products of neural activity when you're awake, from its neurons. The catch here is that your brain can only adequately remove these toxic proteins when you have sufficient quality sleep. When you don't get high-quality deep sleep, the toxic proteins remain in your brain cells, wreaking havoc and ultimately impairing your ability to think--something no amount of caffeine can fix. This slows your ability to process information and solve problems, kills your creativity, and increases your emotional reactivity. Learning to get high-quality sleep on a regular basis is a difficult skill to master, but it pays massive dividends the next day.

**7. Knowing when to shut up.** Sure, it can feel *so* good to unload on somebody and let the person know what you really think, but that good feeling is temporary. What happens the next day, the next week, or the next year? It's human nature to want to prove that you're right, but it's rarely effective. In conflict, unchecked emotion makes you dig your heels in and fight the kind of battle that can leave you and the relationship severely damaged. When you read and respond to your emotions, you're able to choose your battles wisely and only stand your ground when the time is right. The vast majority of the time, that means biting your tongue.

**8. Taking initiative.** Initiative is a skill that will take you far in life. In theory, initiative is easy--the desire to take action is always there--but in the real world, other things get in the way. There's a big difference between knowing what to do and being too scared or lazy to actually do it. That requires initiative. You have to take risks and push yourself out of your comfort zone, until taking initiative is second nature.

**9. Staying positive.** We've all received the well-meaning advice to "stay positive." The greater the challenge, the more this glass-half-full wisdom can come across as Pollyanna-ish and unrealistic. It's hard to find the motivation to focus on the positive when positivity seems like nothing more than wishful thinking. The real obstacle to

positivity is that our brains are hard-wired to look for and focus on threats. This survival mechanism served humankind well, back when we were hunters and gatherers and living each day with the very real threat of being killed by someone or something in our immediate surroundings.

That was eons ago. Today, this mechanism breeds pessimism and negativity through the mind's tendency to wander until it finds a threat. These "threats" magnify the perceived likelihood that things are going--or are going to go--poorly. When the threat is real and lurking in the bushes down the path, this mechanism serves you well. When the threat is imagined and you spend two months convinced that the project you're working on is going to flop, this mechanism leaves you with a soured view of reality that wreaks havoc in your life. Maintaining positivity is a daily challenge that requires focus and attention. You must be intentional about staying positive if you're going to overcome the brain's tendency to focus on threats.

Bringing It All Together

Research shows that lifelong learning pays dividends beyond the skills you acquire.  
Never stop learning.