



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH



## FOUNDATIONS

“DEEP HAS TO BE WIDE”

June 23, 2024  Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



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Note [John 4:34-35](#). \_\_\_\_\_ came to this earth to rescue lost people.

Note [Luke 19:10](#)

And Jesus calls \_\_\_\_\_ of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

But despite how clear the mission and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus is, and despite the reality that most Bible-believing churches affirm that Jesus wants them to be outward-focused and reach lost people; the fact is, there's a cognitive dissonance in many/most \_\_\_\_\_ and individuals when we recognize that what we say we believe and how we act are at least inconsistent, and at worst, contradictory.

Today I want to examine one of the most common \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus followers and churches make about not being outward-focused: *We have to be careful to not become too outward-focused because it will stop us from going \_\_\_\_\_*...

So what does \_\_\_\_\_ really look like?

## 1. What Deep is \_\_\_\_\_

As a newer Jesus follower and then as a young pastor, I saw quickly that how much a person knows about the Christian faith/Bible and what they looked like and practiced externally was a completely \_\_\_\_\_ way to measure genuine spiritual maturity. In Jesus' day, the most highly respected religious people were the \_\_\_\_\_.

They:

- Excelled in \_\_\_\_\_ and it was obvious to everybody (note [Matthew 6:5a](#)).
- Memorized the first 5 books of the Old Testament by \_\_\_\_\_ years of age; and to be a Pharisee they needed to memorize the entire Old Testament (\_\_\_\_\_ chapters, 23,145 verses, 503,493 \_\_\_\_\_). Jesus acknowledged their \_\_\_\_\_ study of Scripture (note [John 5:39a](#)).
- They attended regular and special worship services consistently and nothing else in their lives/schedules would ever take \_\_\_\_\_ over worship.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ tithed every part of their income... (note [Matthew 23:23a](#)). Study after study for years shows only about \_\_\_\_\_% of church goers tithe.

Let's be honest; few if any of us come close to the level of religious devotion of even the \_\_\_\_\_ Pharisee in Jesus' day. And yet, who did Jesus reserve His harshest \_\_\_\_\_ for (note [Matthew 23:1-7](#))?



- They may have prayed a lot, but only to be \_\_\_\_\_ by others.
- They meticulously \_\_\_\_\_, but (note [Matthew 23:23](#)).
- Studying the Scriptures is great and important, but they \_\_\_\_\_ the most important thing (note [John 5:39-40](#)).

*The problem with many Christians these days is that we \_\_\_\_\_ to know everything, but we love no one, with the possible exception of those who believe exactly what we do and act exactly like we do. That's about as far away from the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus taught as it gets. (Nieuwhof)*

## 2. There is No Such Thing as Deep \_\_\_\_\_...

No one can argue that the Apostle Paul (a former Pharisee, note [Philippians 3:5](#)) wasn't deep in his \_\_\_\_\_ and teaching (note [2 Peter 3:15-16](#)).

He had dreams, visions, angelical appearances, encounters with the risen Jesus, and even was *caught up* (\_\_\_\_\_) to "3<sup>rd</sup> heaven" (note [2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#)).

\_\_\_\_\_ has ever been deeper than Paul.

But not because he was a Pharisee who separated himself (*Pharisee* = \_\_\_\_\_) from people who didn't believe like he did...

What made Paul \_\_\_\_\_?

His \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill Jesus' mission and reach lost people.

## FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- It's why Paul traveled over \_\_\_\_\_ miles (mostly by foot) across the Roman Empire to preach the gospel and start churches (note [Romans 15:20-21](#)).
- It's why he said (note [Romans 10:9-15](#)).
- And is there anything deeper than this (note [Romans 9:1-3](#))?
- There's no deep without \_\_\_\_\_.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



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# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If the dictionary had your name as a definition for a word, what would that word be? (As in, "Pastor Glen is the definition of "energy!")*

1. Pastor Tom said that a common reason many churches/Jesus-followers give to excuse their lack of outward focus is that it keeps them from going deeper in their faith. Have you ever been a part of a church/group where the stated priority was to go deeper? As you look back, how engaged was that church/group in reaching out with the Good News of Jesus?
2. Pastor Tom noted that in the Bible the religious people known as Pharisees were considered very "deep" in their faith. Look in your message notes to see what gave everyone that impression. How does that description compare to your definition of a "deep" Jesus-follower?
3. Read [Matthew 23:1-7](#) and [John 5:39-40](#). Pastor Tom pointed out that Jesus reserved his harshest criticism for the Pharisees. They knew their Bibles and practiced their religion better than anybody, so what were they missing?
4. Read [Philippians 3:5-6](#) and [2 Corinthians 12:1-2](#). According to Scripture, no Christian was deeper than the former Pharisee known as the Apostle Paul. How did the focus of the Pharisee Saul change when Jesus called Him to be the Apostle Paul and what evidence did Pastor Tom give that demonstrated that change?
5. Pastor Tom said that, "There's no deep without wide." What did he mean by that and how might that truth change the way you approach your walk with Jesus in this world? ([Romans 9:1-3, 10:9-15, 15:20-21](#))

*Day One:* [John 14](#); [Psalm 82](#)

*Day Two:* [Exodus 32](#); [Proverbs 20](#)

*Day Three:* [Romans 4](#); [2 Samuel 2](#)

*Day Four:* [2 Timothy 3](#); [Jeremiah 16](#)

*Day Five:* [Job 20](#); [Acts 26](#)

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



## MESSAGE NOTES

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Today I want to examine one of the most common excuses Jesus followers and churches make about not being outward-focused: *We have to be careful to not become too outward-focused because it will stop us from going deeper...* So what does deep really look like?

## 1. What Deep is Not

As a newer Jesus follower and then as a young pastor, I saw quickly that how much a person knows about the Christian faith/Bible and what they looked like and practiced externally was a completely unreliable way to measure genuine spiritual maturity.

In Jesus' day, the most highly respected religious people were the Pharisees.

They:

- Excelled in prayer and it was obvious to everybody (note [Matthew 6:5a](#)).
- Memorized the first 5 books of the Old Testament by 10 years of age; and to be a Pharisee they needed to memorize the entire Old Testament (929 chapters, 23,145 verses, 503,493 words). Jesus acknowledged their diligent study of Scripture (note [John 5:39a](#)).
- They attended regular and special worship services consistently and nothing else in their lives/schedules would ever take priority over worship.
- They meticulously tithed every part of their income...(note [Matthew 23:23a](#)). Study after study for years shows only about 4% of church goers tithe.

Let's be honest; few if any of us come close to the level of religious devotion of even the average Pharisee in Jesus' day. And yet, who did Jesus reserve His harshest criticisms for (note [Matthew 23:1-7](#))?



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His passion to fulfill Jesus' mission and reach lost people.

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