



Week 4: Pace of Grace

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us — Hebrews 12:1 NIV

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
—Luke 9:23 NIV*

Big Idea

As a model man, anything that is hindering your race has got to go! To run effectively, you must realize that the race you are running is a marathon, not a sprint. To give you long-term success, Pastor Larry identifies four things to focus on to step into the pace of grace: walking with correct motives (yoke), focusing on the right people (inner circles), maintaining margin (money), and carefully discerning opportunities.

Another critical component of pace is discipline. It is the tortoise-and-hare approach to life, doing the right things consistently and daily. True pace is when your godly, attainable schedule is implemented with a consistent routine of accomplishment.

Discussion

- In our high-pressure world, do you sometimes feel that the burdens you are carrying come from your own drive/motives more than from Christ's direction? Read Matthew 11:29-30. Discuss what burdens you will allow Jesus to carry this week.
- Discuss your daily devotional life in Bible reading and prayer. Share the victories or struggles in being consistent and disciplined in this area.
- Balancing work and family is a challenge. For many men, work seems to take priority. Share with the group what limitations you have placed on the amount of time you spend working.

Next Steps

As a model man, you must show consistency in the pace of drive, pace of relationships, pace of finances, pace of opportunities, and discipline. Yet there is one area that ties all of them together—purpose. Without purpose, none of it works. Take this week to review your daily schedule. Write down what in your schedule needs to be removed or adjusted to allow you to live a life of purpose.

Closing Thoughts

The race of life is a marathon, not a sprint. It is important to "take up your cross daily" and, "run with endurance." At times, the burdens of this world and responsibilities as a man seem too heavy to carry, but God never designed us to do it alone. The grace of Jesus will help you as you begin to focus on living your life at a Godly pace.