

Life Group Notes 9/14/2025

Pastor Richie Cayabyab

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 9/14. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote speaks:

1. [On Charlie Kirk.](#)
2. [On the great commission.](#)

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Pastor Richie began, "This week has been hard. A lot of things have happened, and many are wondering, 'What's going on Lord?' Some of you don't understand. How many here are sad? How many are devastated, like desperate...you have no clue what's going on. How many of you are just angry? (You can be honest. I was angry.)"

1. Answer him.
2. Take a moment, gently, to talk about the events of the past week?

He continued: "How many of you believe that our hope is in Jesus, and Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is still the King of kings and Lord of lords, and He reigns. He is still in control. And He is coming back again."

1. Answer him this time.
2. Explain what difference this makes to someone who might wonder what difference it makes.
3. How does it help to keep this in mind?
4. How short is our own time?

Richie said, "Don't be angry with people. People are not our enemy. Don't be angry with the system. It's not the system. Don't be angry with the government. The government is not our enemy. We have one enemy."

1. Look up Ephesians 6: ***10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes. **12**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* Who is our enemy? List them all. What forms do use and in what manner do they assault us?
2. What are "the powers of this world's darkness," and where are they found?
3. What "heavenly places" are found on this earth, that are ruled by darkness?
4. How do we address those places? Look up 2 Corinthians 10: ***3**For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. **4**The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the flesh. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5**We demolish arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **6**And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete.* What do you see?
5. Was Charlie Kirk "waging war" in this manner? Explain.

Richie asked, "Do you know why Satan's doing these things? I will tell you. Somebody says, 'He's losing.' Yeah. He knows the end is coming. He is trying to distract the church. He wants us to forget about our great commission. Do you want to know what your purpose is? I'll tell you what your purpose is: It has always been to love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength. You cannot love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength when you do not have a relationship with Him. When you follow and obey Him, that's worship. Your purpose is to worship the Lord."

1. What do you see? Can you add to your purpose?
2. How can anyone see that you are achieving your purpose? What do they see, practically?
3. How are you doing?
4. Richie says, this is the great commission. Is it? Explain how following and obeying is the great commission?
5. What did the apostles do while they followed Jesus?
6. What were the apostles actually doing as they obeyed Him?
7. How does this become your calling as well?
8. What does/will it look like when you are following Jesus?

Pastor Richie went on to say, "We cannot follow Jesus on our own. That's why we have the Holy Spirit. That is why we need the Holy Spirit."

1. Explain. What does this mean?
2. What does the Spirit provide?

Pastor said, "Without the Holy Spirit, you would not even be here. Without the Holy Spirit, you would not know how to pray. You would not know how to read the Bible. You would not know how to worship. You would not know how to love."

1. Go step by step and explain each point.
2. How does the Spirit make reading different?

3. In light of the Holy Spirit, how does the act of worship change the days that follow.
4. Look up Luke 6: [12](#) *In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God. [13](#) When daylight came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated as apostles:* What happened after Jesus spent the night in prayer?
5. What do you imagine happened that night on that mountain?
6. What resulted from that night in prayer? What changed? Who was impacted?

The message begins with Matthew 28. Pastor Richie said, "There is a call to every believer...every Christian. Every person that says, 'I believe in Jesus. I'm a born again, spirit filled...'" Here's the call: '[18](#) *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. [19](#) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20](#) and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*' Richie adds, "Until the end of the age. That means there is an end to this."

1. Read it as if you're reading for the first time. What do you see?
2. What is implied, when Jesus says all authority has been given to me?
3. What comes with authority in heaven?
4. What comes with authority on earth? Are there any limits?
5. What is the word "therefore" there for? Who goes with us?
6. How do you know? Who said He is with us? Where? When?
7. What comes with Him when He goes with us?
8. Answer this question out loud: Are these verses for pastors, the super spiritual or for you?
9. Richie asks, when Jesus says, "Go..." where are we going? (See footnote below.) Are we going to beaches? To barbecues? What then?
10. Richie said, "We're going to places where Jesus is making disciples." What place is not included?
11. Look up Mark 1: [8](#) *"I baptize you with [in] water, but He will baptize you with [in] the Holy Spirit."* How does Jesus baptize His followers?
12. The Greek can be translated the two ways shown. What is the difference between being baptized with and being baptized in?
13. Is the Holy Spirit with us or in us or both? Explain.
14. What happens when this happens?
15. Review what Jesus told the apostles concerning the purpose of the Holy Spirit in John 14: [25](#) *All this I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26](#) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.* What do you see? What is the two-fold purpose of the Holy Spirit?
16. Did Jesus say all there was to say? Or does the Spirit have more to teach each of us? Explain.
17. How important is the Holy Spirit to God's purpose? Can anything happen without Him?
18. How important is the Holy Spirit to the day to day, week by week function of the church? Explain. What must each of us do?

Pastor Richie says, "The holy Spirit is not just with us. He's also in us." (See Mark 1:8 cited above.) You can try leaving Him behind, but he's with you if you believe in Jesus Christ. So, what is the Power of God doing inside of you? Some might say, 'He's there to preach the gospel...' and that's part of it. But if you only preach the gospel and do not make disciples, then the enemy has distracted you."

1. Comment on this.
2. Look back at Matthew 28 cited above again: Which comes first? Making disciples or preaching/teaching everything Jesus said and did?
3. Can you explain this? How is a good disciple made?
4. How is a good apprentice made? What is the apprentice's role?
5. What is the master craftsman's role?
6. What is your role?

Richie speaks of a mindset where the believer is asked, "Do you believe in Jesus?" When he answers in the affirmative, he's immediately told, "You're on your own."

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. What is wrong with this picture? What solution can we offer?
3. Richie asked, "How many of you have been discipled...and helped along?" Did you have an answer? Do you?
4. What worked for you? What did not work at all?
5. In light of this past week's events, Richie remember 2 Chronicles 7:[12](#)*the LORD appeared to him at night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. [13](#)If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, [14](#)and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."* What do you see this time?
6. List the steps toward redemption and forgiveness. What happens first?
7. What happens when we fall away? After the plagues hit, what do we do?
8. How many steps are there in this promise in verse 14? List each step.
9. Given this passage...what is our focus, each person individually? Do we focus on evil? Or on the Answer? Explain.
10. Who humbles and turns and seeks?

Richie looked at the thieves who were crucified to each sides of Jesus. The one said, "Save yourself...and save us while you're at it." The other said, "We're guilty of crimes we committed. This man is innocent..."

1. In the context of the passage from 2 Chronicles above, which thief on the cross followed the prescribed steps?
2. What is his reward? How swiftly did Jesus respond? Explain.
3. How great is the mercy the Father has for us?
4. How deep is His love?
5. Look at the account from Acts 2:[40](#)*With many other words he [Peter] testified, and he urged them, "Be saved from this corrupt generation."*[41](#)*Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day. [42](#)They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43](#)A sense of awe came over*

*everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs. **44**All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45**Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need. **46**With one accord they continued to meet daily in the temple courts and to break bread from house to house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincerity of heart, **47**praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* What do you see?

6. Link these verses to what Jesus told the apostles in Matthew 28.
7. Describe discipleship in the very first days of the church. How is it different from what you've seen?
8. How were the first disciples taught?
9. What accompanied the teaching?
10. Have you ever seen this kind of involvement, excitement and participation? Do you have a testimony?

Richie asked again: What is discipleship? Discipleship is someone who learns, someone who follows and someone who obeys every word of God. Jesus did not call us to make converts. He commissioned us to make disciples. This is a process with intentionality. It involves sacrifice, and most of all it involves obedience.

1. What do you see?
2. Do you find anything at GCC that seeks to reenact the first days of the church? Do you have a testimony?
3. What purpose does a life group serve?
4. Look up Luke 9: **23** *Then Jesus said to all of them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. **24**For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.* What is the cost of discipleship?
5. How is this done? Do you have a testimony?
6. Pastor Richie related the testimony of one who was afraid to share his testimony, because his past was so bad, he feared rejection. Do you remember? What happened after he shared his testimony with Richie?
7. Have you ever visited anyone that incarcerated in the system? Do you have a testimony to share about your encounters?
8. Have you ever had a conversation with folks who were homeless? Can you share what that was like?
9. What is the value of a truly changed life?
10. Richie called us to review Luke 14: **26** *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters— yes, even his own life— he cannot be My disciple. **27**And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.* What do you remember from this verse? What is the cost of discipleship?
11. Reconcile this: How do you honor your father and your mother according to the commandment, and follow this principle, as outlined by Jesus here?

Richie says, "God is always after your heart. He's exposing your unbelief, your unwillingness, your disbelief and your disobedience. There were people who wanted to

follow Jesus who said, 'First...I gotta go home. I gotta bury my dad. Can you wait for me, Jesus?'"

1. What is the cost of discipleship? What has it cost you? What has been the return?
 2. How do you honor your father and mother...and hate them at the same time?
 3. List the priorities of a true disciple?
 4. How do you show others how you love, how you pray, how you worship? Would you want others to imitate you?
 5. Richie asks, "Who is discipling you? Whom are you discipling." Answer him.
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Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. List each of the steps listed in 2 Chronicles 7:14, and take them one by one. Journal the results.
3. Richie's challenge: Ask the question, "What's my part in the great commission." Listen for an answer.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

1. **On Charlie Kirk**—(Disclaimer: This is the opinion of Peter Mehegan, the scribe, and not that of the whole church. If it appears in the notes, it's with the indulgence of the pastors, as the view of one who lived through this week.) Twitter (now X) is ablaze with commentary on Charlie Kirk's cold-blooded assassination. Charlie Kirk was dedicated to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ on college campuses where Jesus is not the focus. He would come to the campus and sit at a table with a sign to promote conversation...something like, "It is true that Jesus rose from the dead. Prove me wrong." From that, conversations would grow into gatherings. There was a vigil for Charlie in front of the state house this Friday. At the vigil, it was said, "No one can replace Charlie Kirk." In truth, we need to realize that this was said for fifty days, beginning the day Jesus died. "No one can replace Jesus." Then Pentecost happened. Jesus was never replaced, but His commission was ratified. Thousands set out from Jerusalem, filled with the Holy Spirit Himself, commissioned to fill the world with the Word. This was Charlie's hope, also, not that any should replace Charlie Kirk, but someone would take up their own table with a sign that says something like, "Charlie Kirk was right: Jesus matters. Prove me wrong," and continue the conversation, as we stretch out our hand to the naysayers, and seek an honest conversation from the basis of mutual need. That's what we're called to do. Taking up our cross has been redefined as taking up our table and our sign...and the end will always be the same, seeing Jesus face to face with a smile. The only tragedy would be if that conversation were cut short in a generation of such growing need. This is the basis and the meaning of discipleship...borne of a conversation. This is how Paul reached cities with a table and a sign. Prove me wrong.
2. **On the great commission**—Matthew's record of our commission is often quoted, but few recognize in it the principles that were highlighted today in Richie's

message. Here are the verses again: ‘[18](#)Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.[19](#)Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20](#)and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”’ I want to focus on an often ignored fact: In the English translation, there are two imperatives, two commands, “Go,” and “Make disciples.” In Greek, there is only one command: “make disciples.” The verb “go” is an aorist participle. That is the equivalent of “having gone” in English. We are *not* commanded to go. The obvious truth is, if we’re still alive and breathing, we are going. “Having gone into all the world...” is a better translation. So is, “As you go,” or “on your way”...wherever you are going. And we don’t actually “make disciples”. We disciple. That is the verb. That is the command and the commission. And as we disciple, there are expectations placed on us: we will be baptizing. We will be teaching them to obey everything just as He taught us. That is what planted the church throughout the empire.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:10-12

Wednesday: Luke 14:26-27

Thursday: Hebrews 5:7-9

Friday: Matthew 28:18-20

Saturday: John 14:25-26

Sunday: 2 Chronicles 7:12-14

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.