

# Overcoming Mediocrity

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## Memorize:

2 Cor 10:3-5

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,  
For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful  
for the destruction of fortresses.

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the  
knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience  
of Christ."

1. Every week we'll memorize one new passage...student's choice.
2. We'll have a short writing assignment;
  - a. Write your obituary...won't share with anyone else, strictly for personal use.
  - b. Outline a chapter or two from 2 Cor each week...I'll make assignments each week at close of class.
3. Vision; Mission; Strategy;Goals
  - a. And keep track of your accomplishments.
4. I'll keep us on track with the outline each week...this will be the body of the class each time.
5. Students look over the outline for each week and find at least two passages that relate to the theme/topic for the week.

# It Involves Another Kingdom

Definition: God's rule in your heart (mind)

Heb 12:28:

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe."

How do we enter into the kingdom?

- We need to remind ourselves...so having memory verses on it is a good "tip."  
Ex. John 3:1-6; Gal 3:26-27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21; Mt 28:18; Mk 16:15-16; Acts 22:16.

## OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS

### 1. Acts 8:9-24 **Simon the Sorcerer**

- Our generation is like Simon...they'd love this power
- But just like Simon, we're off base – cf 2 Cor 10:3-5 -- "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."
- Should be looking for a ministry of "small things"
  - Do something specifically for God everyday. Phone someone, visit them, send card or letter, speak a kind word, take a benevolent action.

### 2. Acts 14:1-7; 19-22 **Suffering**

- Stoned Paul in Lystra, v.19
- Paul returned to Lystra, v.22
- WHAT MAKES A MAN DO THAT? It's like going back to the job where you were just fired... X 10!!
- It takes "kingdom" thinking...not fleshly, 2 Cor 10:3-5
- Our generation hates suffering...yet, it pays great dividends if we are "thinking" correctly. Heb 21:11; 1 Pet 1:3-7; Rom 5:1-5

### 3. Acts 19:8-9 **Thinning of the ranks**

- When kingdom thinking presses itself into our lives we will either embrace it fully or we cannot tolerate it.
- Therefore, we shouldn't be surprised to find the majority of our generation opting for the mediocre lifestyle.

### 4. Acts 20 **Commitment**

- Paul talking to the Ephesians' elders
- We must investigate our motives. Possessions, purchases, vacations, houses
- Give all we have to the Lord and He will give us all we need and more.... Luke 6:38.

### **Legend of the man lost in the desert:**

- Dying for a drink of water
- Stumbled upon an old weather beaten shack, windowless, roofless, without a door, ramshackled...
- Provided a little shade,
- Old rusty water pump about 15 feet away,
- He pumped and pumped and .... nothing,
- Disappointed he staggered back to the shack and noticed an old jug.
- Wiped away the dirt and dust and read a message that said, "You have to prime the pump with all the water in this jug, my friend. P.S.: Be sure you fill the jug again before you leave."
- He popped the cork out of the jug and sure enough it was full of water.
- Faced with a decision...Drink the water or risk wasting it.
- He poured it into the pump, every last bit of it. Turned the crank and with squeak, squeak, squeak it began to provide a little water. Not much at first, but soon it was flowing. He filled that jug three times for himself and one last time for the next travel.
- He added to this message, "Believe me it really works. You've got to give it all away before you can get anything back."
- **PEOPLE WHO LIVE LIKE THAT SOAR!**