

## *Women & More*

### ***In Season; Out of Season***

November 1, 2012

Spring, summer, fall, and winter—seasons of a normal year—easily represent human life: youth, young adult, middle age, and senior. Someone has said: “Life is lived as a tale that is told.” Every moment, every hour, every day of every year of our lives, we must have an influence **for—in favor of**—Christ Jesus our Lord! Whether we’re in a good season of life or a difficult one, our influence for our God can make a difference in the lives of those around us. **Our story must tell His story!**

The Mission Field is closer than we think: It begins in us!

*“Effective evangelism begins where people are,  
not where we would like them to be.”*

—Joseph Aldrich

“That’s one of the things I love about Christ.

He’s not into waste management.

If He gives us a task or assigns us to a difficult season,  
every ounce of our experience is meant for our instruction  
and completion if only we’ll let Him finish the work.

“Once we let Jesus Christ really get to us, we never get over Him.”

—Beth Moore

#### **Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:**

**Proverbs 4:13**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 11** *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...<sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the hearts of men**; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

**Matthew 9:36**

**Luke 13:3 and 5 say the same thing:** *“I tell you, no! But **unless you repent, you too will all perish.**”*

**John 17:18**

#### **Scripture to Memorize:**

**2 Timothy 4:2** *“Preach the Word; **be prepared in season and out of season**; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

**NOTES on Speaking Session:****Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:**

1. If you claim Christ as Savior; you are a believer; a follower of Christ, and you live like the world, how will that **affect**—**influence**—the lost around you?

†Do you feel a responsibility to be an influence for Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember that **every second the devil is busy leaving his mark on the world!**

2. Max Lucado in his book, **3:16—The Numbers of Hope**, addresses the question: “All roads lead to heaven, right? But can they? Can all approaches to God be correct?” Finish the sentences below that Lucado presents, responding with what Christians should believe.

- “Islam says Jesus was not crucified. **Christians say** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Both can’t be right.
- “Judaism refuses the claim of Christ as the Messiah. **Christians** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Someone’s making a mistake.
- “Buddhists look toward Nirvana, achieved after no less than 547 reincarnations.  
**Christians** believe in one \_\_\_\_\_, one \_\_\_\_\_, and then an eternity of enjoying God. Doesn’t one view exclude the other?
- “Humanists do not acknowledge a creator of life. **Jesus claims** to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of life. One of the two speaks folly.
- “Spiritists read your palm. **Christians consult** the \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Hindus perceive a plural and impersonal god. **Christ-followers believe** ‘there is only \_\_\_\_\_ God’ (1 Corinthians 8:4). Somebody is wrong.  
“And, most supremely, every non-Christian religion says, ‘You can save you.’  
**Jesus says**, ‘My **d**\_\_\_\_\_ on the **c**\_\_\_\_\_ saves you.’”

**There’s only one Way!**

3. Being the influence God wants us to be in our neighborhoods and in the world will take fixing our eyes on Jesus...the author and the perfecter of our faith!  Agree or  Disagree

**Recommended Reading:**

**3:16—The Numbers of Hope**, Max Lucado

*LAUS DEO: Praise be to God!*

In Washington, D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. For on its aluminum cap are displayed two Latin words: *Laus Deo*—four syllables and seven letters—meaning *Praise be to God!* With all the controversy about removing the Ten Commandments, these unseen words crown the Washington Monument, where many visitors remain unaware that they are even there.

The words are 555 feet up, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, Capitol of the United States of America—*Laus Deo!* They have been there for years—two seemingly insignificant and unnoticed words. Out of sight, and, we might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, *Laus Deo: Praise be to God!*

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From this vantage point, we also can easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant—a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape. With the White House to the north, the Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Separation of church and state was not, and is not in the Constitution. *Praise be to God!* Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. And as we climb the steps and pause at the landings the memorial stones share a message:

- On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore;
- on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; and
- on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday school children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7; Luke 18:16, and Proverbs 22:6. *Praise be to God!*

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the New York Bible Society. *Praise be to God!* Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy 'One Nation, Under God.' George Washington 's prayer for America states:

“Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” *Laus Deo!*

When we stop to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, we can easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere we look. We may forget the width and height of *Laus Deo*, its location, or the architects, but we will not forget its meaning: “*Unless the Lord builds the house its builders’ labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain*” from Psalm 127: 1.

## *EVANGELISM STRATEGIES* (very basic)

There are those who formally share the Gospel of Jesus Christ—evangelists, and there are more informal, resident evangelizers—and that’s us. Below are some differences between, as well as similarities of, the formal and informal:

	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>
Preaching:	Public	Private
Intensity:	Highly intense	Relaxed but focused
Length of time:	Short term	Long term
Publicity:	High profile	Low Profile
<b>Commitment:</b>	<b>Highly committed</b>	<b>Highly committed</b>
<b>Boldness:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Remember that the battle is the Lord’s!

A New Dimension to:

*Let it Go!*

by pastor and author T. D. Jakes

“There are people who can walk away from you. And hear me when I tell you this: When people can walk away from you, let them walk. I don’t want you to try to talk another person into staying with you, loving you, calling you, caring about you, coming to see you, staying attached to you. I mean...hang up the phone.

“When people can walk away from you let them walk. Your destiny is never tied to anybody that left. The Bible said that...*they came out from us that it might be made manifest that they were not for us. For had they been of us, no doubt they would have continued with us* (reference: 1 John 2:19).

“People leave you because they are not joined to you and if they are not joined to you, you can’t make them stay. **Let them go!** And it doesn’t mean that they are a bad person, it just means that their part in the story is over. You’ve got to know when people’s part in your story is over so that you don’t keep trying to raise the dead. You’ve got to know when it’s dead. You’ve got to know when it’s over. Stop begging people to stay. **Let them go!**”

**More practice in letting go from Jakes:**

- “If you are holding on to something that doesn’t belong to you,  
and was never intended for your life— LET IT GO!
- If you are holding on to past hurts and pains— LET IT GO!
- If someone can’t treat you right, love you back or see your worth— LET IT GO!
- If someone has angered you— LET IT GO!
- If you are holding on to some thoughts of evil and revenge— LET IT GO!
- If you are involved in a wrong relationship or addiction— LET IT GO!
- If you are holding on to a job that no longer meets your needs or talents—LET IT GO!
- If you have a bad attitude— LET IT GO!
- IF you keep judging others to make yourself feel better— LET IT GO!
- If you are stuck in the past and God is trying to take you to a new level in Him— LET IT GO!
- If you are struggling with the healing of a broken relationship— LET IT GO!
- If you keep trying to help someone who won’t even try to help themselves— LET IT GO!
- If you’re feeling depressed and stressed— LET IT GO!
- If there is a particular situation that you are so used to handling yourself  
and God is saying, “Take your hands off of it”— LET IT GO!
- Let the past be past. Forget the former things. God is doing a new thing—LET IT GO!
- Get ‘right’ or get ‘left’—think about it, and then— LET IT GO!”