



Part 1 - Chasing FAME

Daily Devotional Guide/Notes: Apr 28 - May 4, 2024

INTRO

1. Chasing... Carrots??
2. Battling the lie: if I can just get THAT I'll be good. So, a little more of THAT.
*The Problem: "THAT" DOESN'T DELIVER.

Illustration: Swim Team... "Reach the Carrot"

3. Series Summary: Perfection, Money/stuff, Approval, Comfort & ?

THE MESSAGE: The Pursuit of Fame

Pursuit of Fame: Perhaps more relevant than any other topic...

- Not me... not a full blown pursuit? Ok, what about **Micro Cravings**?

"Micro Cravings" for fame - Looks like...

- a. Over commitment
- b. Wanting credit (Work/Service/Tithes)
- c. No rejection or negative feedback - Reactive on social media & to critique
- d. Social Media: overthink posts...delete photos if not enough likes

We are living for likes and longing for love... But "THAT" ain't doing it

- Still not you... What about your friends, or your Kids? IS THERE A PROBLEM??? You tell me...

Stat's that make ya think...

- 64% of Gen Alpha, 0-14yo) Agreed with the statement, "I would rather be a _____ than the PRESIDENT."
- 22-37yo) 50% believe your life should be _____ into a _____.

For your notes.... Before we get to today, how did we get here?

The History: The changing landscape that we need to consider

- **Greatest Generation (Born before 1928): The Fighters**
 - Coined by NBC Nightly News anchor and author Tom Brokaw
 - Fought in WWII & Overcame Great Depression
- **Silent Generation (1928-1945): The Conformers**
 - Stability Seeking... Fearful to return to a Depression
- **Baby Boomers (1946-1965): The Workers**
 - Start getting busy... too busy
 - Hard working, but unavailable
- **Gen X (1965-1980): The InBetweeners**
 - Irreverent to Authority: Latch-key, broken home
 - Well meaning, but unstable (In the family unit)
- **Gen Y (1980-1995, Millennials): The Guru & The Awoken (aware)**
 - Guru
 - Achievement & Innovation consumed
 - High achieving, but unaware of technological impacts (Apple Genius Bar - Formed in 2001)
 - Awoken
 - AOL IM, 97' | LinkedIn, 02' | MySpace, 03' | FaceBook, 04' - 06' | YouTube 05'
 - Increased "awareness" & Many major, traumatic events

The Youth of Today

- **Gen Z (1995-2010): The Skeptical, Woke & Divided**
 - Least religious gen - Least grounded in institutional truth
 - VERTICAL DISCONNECT (b/t Gen & God)
- **Gen Alpha (2010-2024): The Curious & Disconnected**
 - Least church-ed gen - Least connected to a church community
 - HORIZONTAL DISCONNECT (b/t Gen & church friends)

2 Takeaways

1. They were pursuing something - "THAT"
2. They kept changing their approach because they never found "THAT" - THAT didn't work, "THAT" didn't deliver.

NOTE: The current Gen has always looked to the Gen before for help, for answers & an example; but this is where it gets difficult & where it's... **Different**.

The Stats

*Sources: Barna, Pew, LifeWay & Multi-National Children's Ministry Report

A. Our Influence

- 46% of kids have original 2 parents (Less & Less Traditional)
- 67% of US parents of pre-teens (Gen Alpha) identify as Christian
- 2% possess Biblical Worldviews
- 61% of Parent's main goal is for kids to be "successful"
- **22-37yo) 50% believe your life should be made into a movie...**

**B/t our Expectations & Example, the next Gen are just falling in line...*

B. Our kids

- 10-12yo) #1 Goal = To be FAMOUS... (not financial security, career, relationships)... To be an INFLUENCER.
- To be famous/household name:
 - 1 of 12) would disown their family
 - 1 of 9) would give up on marriage
 - 1 of 6) would give up having kids
- 64% of Gen Alpha) Agreed with the statement, "I would rather be a social media influencer than the President.

Where are these crazy kids getting this from...

***It begins with our influence, but doesn't end there. This time, it's different**

C. "Other" Influences (Influencers & AI)

*Looking to AI for their answers... And they're finding them.

Gen Alpha (0-14): Use of Tech & AI

- 57% have their own tablet & 43% have their own phone
- 0-8yo) 2:24 hours of screen time daily
- 41%) speaking to smart speakers from age 6 or younger
- **25%) speak to smart speakers (AI) every day**
- **3 of 9 top global YouTuber Channels are run by Gen Alpha Kids**
- **46% or 7-12yo) Have their own social media account**
 - *13 is the age requirement set by congress to protect a child's privacy & access for almost all social media platforms (CPA, '98)

Ok, so what's the big deal with the "Other" influences?

1. ?'s are being asked & found... 3 Major ?'s for Gen Alpha:

- Identity: Why they exist - Purpose
- Sexuality: Who they are - Person
- Technology: How they think & relate - Passion

BUT... Parent's and pastors are unavailable and/or uninformed. So kids go to "Other Influence" for THE questions and get more... "THAT" answers.

2. Increasing access... is leading to increased, unbridled curiosity

3. Inviting a NEW AUTHORITY (AI & Anyone Else Who's interesting)

***POINT:** Yes, they are interesting, but not necessarily informed... Resulting in the further development of unbridled curiosity of something truthful, perhaps, but not character rooted in truth. **Important = Most Interesting (top of google feed)**

Conclusion: Kids & young adults want to be influencers & adults want to be movie stars of their own lives - The Christian Kardashians...

*There's an itch & it's being scratched: **Fame**

FAME - Is Wrong?

CARROT CAVEAT: It's not wrong to be famous

1. If you achieve or are successful in your field... inevitable
2. God makes people famous!
 - a. **David** - Made famous: 1 Chronicles 14:16-17
 - b. **Solomon** - Request, asked for wisdom, and God gave him that, riches and FAME (2 Chronicles 1:7-12)
 - c. **JESUS??** All he did... followers
 - d. **John the Baptist** (John 3:30): Jesus > & Me <
 - i. *Interesting* personality & huge following
 - ii. BUT...Pointed to Jesus. **What does your life "point to"?**

TRANSITION: Famous is not wrong, but the PURSUIT of fame draws us away from God's presence & our purpose.

FAME - Is Dangerous.

Unfortunately, oftentimes John's example is not the case & we are actually following the *influence* of an often unidentified "other".

Ok... Let's do it, we're going to talk about Satan (Lucifer)

His Background: 5 I Wills of Satan: Isaiah 14:12-15 (*13-14)

1. Occupy Heaven: "ascend to the heavens"
2. Exercise Authority: "raise my throne above the stars of God"
3. Have all in subjection to me: "sit enthroned...on the utmost heights"
4. Possess God's glory: "ascend above the tops of clouds"
5. Be as God: "make myself like the most high"

His Cause: "...only to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10a)

His Method: Lure Curiosity, Confuse Truth & Create a "You" Centered Story...

Vs 12) Lucifer - The morning star: bearer of light

- After the disciples came back speaking of how they could cast out demons, Jesus checks their pride by saying... "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).
- 2 Cor 11:14 "He masquerades as an angel of light".
- 2 Cor 4:4 "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

THE RESULT: The "Other" promises "That" and we Chase the Carrot. And the Endless... Elusive pursuit of more continues.

FAME - Our Hope & Call

HOPE: Satan is crafty, but he's...

- **Consistent:** It's always about him... and he always wants to make it about YOU. (Temptations of Jesus, Mt 4:1-11)
- **Conquered:** May there be no question about it... In the consummation of time, when Christ returns, That deceptive dragon of death will be cast into the eternal flames of hell along with those who call him father, friend and sir... The Serpent head will be crushed and we will fully realize what Paul meant and means when he wrote that we are more than conquerors in Christ, who loves us (Romans 8:37).

CALL: We are not called to famous. We are called to be Faithful.

APPLICATION

*How do we function in a society that glorifies fame?

A. Get honest: 3 Questions to ask yourself...

1. **Authority: Who do you represent? (2 Cor 5:20)**
 - Would you consider yourself "Christ" Ambassador..." (2 Cor 5:20)
 - Is your life marked by love, light, forgiveness, humility, grace, etc
 - Who are you pointing to? *Where do you need to be more like JTB
2. **Approval: Where do you find your approval? (Gal 1:20)**
 - **Pride:** Satan - It's really just about you, pleasing you?
 - **Prescription:** Unhealthy brokenness: "THAT's" What I'm Missing...
 - **Psychologists:** Craving for fame is rooted in injury & neglect (from parents/feeling insignificant): It's from a deprived place
 - Where are you...
 - Over commitment
 - Wanting credit (Work/Service/Tithes)
 - Unable to receive negative feedback - Reactive on social media or to critique?
 - Social Media: Overthinking posts...delete photos if not enough likes, etc?
3. **Access: Who/what has access and why? (Genesis 3:1-7)**
 - Where are you playing the line, or just playing dumb? (Gen 3)
 - Limit Availability: Hours a day - surfing; no movies
 - Establish Accountability: Who/what else gets to check in
 - Transfer Responsibility: Understand & communicate what the device is & the potential of it's positive/negative impact.

B. Check the Produce: Are we chasing carrots or growing fruit (Gal 5:22-23)

- Produce Check - Is it temporary or eternal?

Items of Note:

April Men's Hangout - Hey Guys, come out to Kincaid's Burgers in Alliance on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30PM to get some grub and hangout together. Let Shawn Finney know you're coming or sign up online via the church website under 'events'.

Missions Focus for April/May - These months, we're collecting toiletry items for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Find a list of needed items at the Mission kiosk in the lobby

Chasing Carrots - Our next sermon series starts TODAY, April 28th. More often than not, pursuing more is not the solution for success in life. Join us and invite someone in your life to attend, as we find fulfillment in God's truth instead of chasing carrots.

Can we join in prayer with or for you? Drop your prayer off in the offering box or email: Mary Anne at corriendo01@gmail.com

Counseling scholarships available pastor@lifepointfellowship.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

HABIT 1 of Faithful Discipleship: Have a daily devotional. How? 3 Steps:

1. Work through the 5 Prayer Forms

1 - Begin w/Centering Prayer

- Mt 11:28-30, Name and Release your burdens/distractions to Christ
- Psalm 46:10, Consciously seek to clear your mind and "Be Still"

2 - Intentionally Glorify (worship) the Lord

- involves your participation by glorifying God, adoration, praise and worship
- Name the "Good" within you (the specific "fruit" you are experiencing today, like peace, or love, or joy, or hope, faithfulness, goodness, etc.)
- Name the "Good" around you (Gen 1:31, "And God saw that it was good.")
 - a. What do you see that God has made that is good today in the creation?
- Participate: Lift Up the "Good in You" with the "Good In Creation" in worship

3 - Confess Your Sins

- a. What have you done that is wrong? (From works to 7 Deadly sins)
- b. What have you left undone that would have been right?

4 - Give Thanks to God for your Blessings (name them)

5 - Make Your Requests to God

- a. for other people who are on your heart
 - include your church leadership and family
 - include people you know who need to accept Christ/get right with Him
- b. Make requests to God for yourself

2. Time of Listening to God through His Words

Read through the daily scripture passages, with the goal to "hear from God" on any point you feel relates to you. Stop and reflect on those truths.

Apr 29 (Mon): Gen 3

Apr 30 (Tues): 2 Cor 5

May 1 (Wed): Gal 1

May 2 (Thur): 1 Chron 1

May 3 (Fri): John 3

May 4 (Sat): Romans 8

3. Closing Prayer + The Lord's Prayer