

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:8-13  
Topic: Leadership. Suffering.  
Study: First Corinthians  
Week: 18  
Series: 4 of 5

Focal Point Radio Ministries

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Pastor Mike

part 4



# People Who Make a Difference

## Preparing for the Pain

**As You Make a Difference...**

**\* Always remember...**

**1. Christianity** \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8)

**\* Always remember...**

**2. It** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.9-11, 13b)

**\* Always remember...**

**3. God** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.12-13a)

1 Cor. 4:8-13

*<sup>8</sup> Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings—and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you!*

*<sup>9</sup> For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. <sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!*

*<sup>11</sup> To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless.*

*<sup>12</sup> We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;*

*<sup>13</sup> when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. (NIV)*

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.*

1. Describe a situation in which you heard someone pitch a painless Christianity. To what extent did you think like that when you became a Christian?

Read Matthew 16:24-25. In what ways do Jesus' words clash with much of "modern Christianity" and the appetites of our contemporary American culture?

2. Describe a situation in which you paid a heavy toll for trying to help someone come to Christ or grow in Christ.

What did you learn from that situation?

3. How would you counsel people who say that they no longer go out of their way to make a difference in people's lives for Christ because when they have tried in the past they got burned?

What specific biblical promises motivate you to keep striving to help others after you have been hurt in doing so?

4. What steps do you need to take this week to get more involved in sacrificing your personal comfort and convenience for the spiritual growth of someone else?

*We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.*

**Sunday**

*Ezk. 39-40 & Heb. 11*

**Monday**

*Ezk. 41-42 & Heb. 12*

**Tuesday**

*Ezk. 43-44 & Heb. 13*

**Wednesday**

*Ezk. 45-46 & Jms. 1*

**Thursday**

*Ezk. 47-48 & Jms. 2*

**Friday**

*Dan. 1-2 & Jms. 3*

**Saturday**

*Dan. 3-4 & Jms. 4*

*Here are some resources to encourage you to joyfully pay the price of making a lasting difference in people's lives.*

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **The Cost of Discipleship**. SCM Press Ltd., 1959.

Fabarez, Mike. **Expanding Your Ministry: More Ministry Beyond Your Comfort Zone**. Message #01-05.

Foxe, John. **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**. Baker Books, 1996.

Mayhue, Richard. **The Healing Promise: Is It Always God's Will to Heal?** Christian Focus Publications, 1997.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. **Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus**. Albury Publishing, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. **Jesus Freaks Volume 2: Stories of Revolutionaries Who Changed Their World**. Bethany House, 2002.

Miller, Kevin A. **Secrets of Staying Power: Overcoming the Discouragements of Ministry**. Word Books, 1988.

Shelly, Marshall. **Well-Intentioned Dragons: Ministering to Problem People**. Word Books, 1985.

Stowell, Joseph. **Shepherding the Church into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. Victor Books, 1994.

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.

White, John. **Excellence in Leadership: Reaching Goals with Prayer, Courage & Determination**. InterVarsity, 1986.