



## SERMON BASED | SMALL GROUP NOTES

### FALL 2017

Message Series: Do Good, Feel Good Christmas

Message Title: Drill Down For Good

Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers

Date: December 10, 2017

#### Icebreaker

PK decided to eat right, but a few days in, he was tempted because chocolate chip cookies are irresistible to him. What kind of snack would most tempt you?

#### Message Overview

Christmas isn't just a feel-good event that we celebrate. It is an awakening that you join. Last week, we learned from the story of Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10 that God wants us to gear up for good. There are three shifts that we need to make in our lives:

- Shift gears from "Feel Good" to "Do Good"
- Shift gears from good intentions to doing good
- Shift from lower gears to higher gears of good

Next week we will discuss reaching out for good, when we ask, "What's the greatest good?". But in between shifting gears from feeling good to doing good as well as reaching out for good, we need to understand how to drill down for good, because God's good goes deeper and lasts longer.

#### Discussion

Last week, we discovered:

- **When you chase FEEL GOOD; it progressively destroys good.**
- **When you chase DO GOOD; it grows FEEL GOOD!**

This week, the challenge is to drill down for good. PK described three levels of our lives where those shifts need to take place. There are deeper places in our lives that God asks us to go deeper with his good:

#### **1. Public**

Cornelius was giving generously to those in need. God affirms us in our generosity – he's proud of us when we gear up for good in our public lives. He wants us to act on our faith and move from good intentions to doing good.

- Do you serve in church or in the community in ways that demonstrate generosity with your time and talents?
- If not, how is God challenging you to change good intentions to doing good?

- If so, can you tell about a time when you have felt God affirm you in your service?

Read Zephaniah 3:17. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

- What stands out to you in this verse? How does it make you feel to read this?

This verse tells us that God is proud of us. In His love, He does not desire to guilt us into serving; instead, He loves to see us serving out of the love we have for Him and His family. He is rejoicing over us with singing!

## 2. Private

Cornelius was blessing his family. It matters to God that we care for family and close friends. Our private lives show the "real" us in how we do good for our spouse, kids, close friends, and even our church family. It matters to God that we live in unity and love with one another.

Read the following verses:

John 13:35

Romans 12:10

Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 5:13

1 Thessalonians 5:11

James 5:16

Hebrews 10:24

- What do these verses tell you about how we are to treat others?

When we treat each other as these verses encourage us to do, God blesses his church through changed lives and eternities.

## 3. Secret

Cornelius was being good in his public and private life. However, he was open to God doing more in his life. In Acts 10:3-5, an angel of God spoke to him, and he responded. While God was speaking to Cornelius, he was also giving Peter, the lead apostle, a vision:

Read Acts 10: 11-16. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

We all have secret sins and temptations. Peter had pride in being a Jew. While God was working in the life of Cornelius to dig deeper in his faith, He was also working in the heart of Peter to dig deeper in his. Peter had to get past his pride in order to reach out for God. He never would have had the opportunity to witness to Cornelius, his family, and the large group that gathered to hear him speak if he had been prejudiced against the Gentiles. He was able to tell them "that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right" (Acts 10: 34-35). Peter had secret places where he could cave, and in Galatians 2 that was revealed, as he showed his pride again. At that time, Paul spoke into his life and called him on it.

- Do you have anyone in your life whom you allow to call you on your sin? Are you in a relationship where you can be honest with another person well enough that they could be honest with you?

In addition to the verses about how we are to treat one another, God also calls us to "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16). The way to get past your pride is to admit that you are vulnerable to peer pressure, secret places where we battle with secret sins.

The first person who needs to know our battle is God. We need to confess to him and ask his forgiveness and power. He loves us and will send the Holy Spirit to help us.

What is the secret to a Merry Christmas "good life?"

- **Yoke Up for His Part.**
- **Learn to Live Good in Secret.**

Read Matthew 11:29-30. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Jesus was saying that our burdens are heavy, but if we will humble ourselves and connect to him, he will do the heavy lifting. We need to join Jesus. Cornelius needed to make the decision to join Him, and Peter had to make the decision to continue to be joined to him.

- Where in your life do you need to stop trying to pull your burden all by yourself?
- Have you given this burden to Jesus and asked him to pull with you? Because he's pulling for you! He wants to help you to live good at every level of your life, because he knows that's where the good life is.
- Have you confessed your sins to another person, and asked for prayer? How can we as a group help encourage you? How can we pray for you?

### Wrap Up / Close

There are a lot of choices that need to be made as a result of this teaching. Some of us need to make the initial decision to follow Christ. Some of us have had the appearance of good in our public and private lives (religion), but our secret lives aren't in alignment (relationship with God). We need to pray that God would transform us so that we will be made good, not just do good. Some of us have been Christians for a long time and need to admit that those areas that God was helping us to change in the past sometimes reveal themselves again, and we need to yoke up with Jesus anew. Or God has revealed new insight to us that we have been unwilling or unable to act on before in our own strength, and we need to ask for help.

- Can you humble yourself and share with the group where you are?

### Throughout the Week (Optional)

There are opportunities to serve in the church and around the world through 12Stone ([12stone.com/serve](http://12stone.com/serve) and [12stone.com/global](http://12stone.com/global)). There are opportunities to discover God's pattern for living ([12stone.com/homerun](http://12stone.com/homerun)) and restore and reconnect in marriage ([12stone.com/marriage](http://12stone.com/marriage)). Make a choice this week to dig deeper and drill down for good.