



HOW CAN I INSPIRE LIKE JESUS?

Hebrews 10:24: (NASB) *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...*

Special Guest: Todd Alexander



Inspiration elevates people. Everyone loves inspiration and wants to be inspired. We love to hear or watch stories that bring us inspiration, and we will go back to those stories again and again to refuel. Even more than going back to those stories, we would love to be inspiring to others - we would love to *be* that story that people go back to again and again. Jesus was like that...he was a constant source of inspiration in everything he said and did. For the last 2,000 years, billions have gone back to the accounts of his life to be inspired and directed. Well, what if you could learn how Jesus inspired others and begin to become an inspiration yourself?

(The conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.)

RICK: You might be thinking, "How can I inspire like Jesus?" While we cannot be exactly like Jesus, we can learn the principles of inspiration he used. To do this, we have a very special guest, Todd Alexander. Good morning, Todd.

TODD: Good morning, Rick and Jonathan. Great to be here. It is good to be back.

RICK: We have had some really lively conversations with you.

TODD: Plus, I have known you for a long time.

RICK: Yes, since we were both little kids. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

TODD: I love Jesus. I have been a follower of Jesus ever since I was 19 years old when I gave my life to God through Jesus, and I just love learning the words of Jesus. I liked reading the Scriptures, but it occurred to me over time there was a process Jesus used to inspire people. When the Scriptures talk about how he mesmerized the crowds and how they were just inspired by his teaching and how he was able to allow the little guy to rise up and take power and take control through faith in Jesus, what does that faith mean? Well, there is a process of inspiration that Jesus was able to plant those seeds of faith.

In the secular world, I am an advertising agency executive, so my job is to understand retail environments. For instance, I go into Starbucks and I just





love the ethos, the environment there, and I love what Starbucks does there. I am also a tour guide. I give tours in Washington DC and New York City and I like to study people.

I love God, and I love Jesus and I want to be like them. God and Jesus give us the power to be like them and to follow Jesus. But we follow Jesus not only in acknowledging him but in following his footsteps, and there is a process I have discovered that Jesus used to inspire people.

RICK: Todd, you said several times that Jesus was inspirational. Let's establish that scripturally first and then get into what the process is made of.

Matthew 22:33: (NASB) *When the crowds heard this, they were **astonished** <1605> at his teaching.*

Astonished: Strong's #1605 εκπλήσσω ekplesso ek-place'-so

1) to strike out, expel by a blow, drive out or away 2) to cast off by a blow, to drive out

JONATHAN: In today's terms, it would mean, "I was blown away by Jesus' words!"

RICK: There is something very dramatic about that. A lot of times I think we think about Bible experiences as sort of benign, just kind of -

TODD: Dry.

RICK: - calm. But the word that says that they were astonished, Todd, is a big word.

TODD: It is!

Mark 11:17-18: (NASB) *¹⁷And he began to teach and say to them, Is it not written, my house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers' den. ¹⁸The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy him; for they were afraid of him, for the whole crowd was **astonished** <1605> at his teaching.*



(Phillips Translation) *The chief priests and scribes heard him say this and tried to find a way of getting rid of him. But they were in fact afraid of him, for his teaching had **captured the imagination of the people.***

TODD: Phillips translates that phrase as **captures the imagination of the people.** Jesus was able to capture the imagination of an oppressed people. Secularly they were oppressed by the Romans. Religiously they were oppressed by their spiritual leaders. Jesus was able to change all of that through inspiration.

RICK: So, he found a way to get to the average person, where nobody else could get to them.

TODD: Right.

RICK: The two levels of oppression are really important. In this Scripture, it was the Pharisees arguing with him and about him. But he found a way through all of that oppression.



TODD: He started a revolution.

RICK: Yes, actually, he did. And not the kind of revolution people generally think of, but a revolution that would become eternal.

TODD: To liberate people from oppression.

RICK: That really is the plan of God.

TODD: It goes all the way back to Isaiah 61:

Isaiah 61:1: (NASB) *The spirit of My Lord Yahweh, is upon me, because Yahweh hath anointed me to tell good tidings to the oppressed, hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, To proclaim to captives, liberty, to them who are bound, the opening of the prison...*

TODD: That sounds like inspiration to me!

Mark 12:37: (NASB) *David himself calls him Lord; so in what sense is he His son? And the large crowd enjoyed listening to him.*

RICK: Here was that "being blown off your feet," that enjoyment. He had this magnetism that was just unheard of.

TODD: He put the common people in the driver's seat.

John 7:46: (KJV) *The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.*

RICK: He was looked at differently because of the words he spoke, and he really was inspirational.

Ask yourself: How can I learn what those principles of inspiration are, and how can I become more inspirational in my everyday life?

TODD: My advice would be to think about which people you want to inspire because at the end of this program, we are going to give you that formula.

RICK: Okay, keep that in mind. Take some notes. We are instructed to be inspirational as well. It is one thing to say, "Jesus inspires me," but it is another thing to say, "I am supposed to be inspirational as well."

Hebrews 10:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴*and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,* ²⁵*not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

RICK: ...*consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. That sounds like inspiration to me.*

TODD: It is making someone sharper than they used to be and letting them find something within themselves they did not know existed. There is secret power there. That is what inspiration is all about - liberating that secret power and making it effective and relevant in their lives.

RICK: There is this responsibility for us to bring that out of one another. That is what fellowship is.



TODD: And the Apostle Paul is speaking to everybody here, not just a select people with the talent to inspire. I think he is saying that all of us have that ability.



Greatness, Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video

- (Will Smith) *Greatness is not this wonderful, esoteric, illusive, God-like feature that only the special among us will ever taste. It is something that truly exists in all of us. It is very simple. This is what I believe, and I am willing to die for it. Period.*
- (Football coach) *When you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful.*

RICK: Todd, you have broken down the methods of Jesus' inspiration into seven basic keys. Give a quick one-line definition of each.



TODD: The first is asking the right QUESTION - to create a thought in a potential disciple's heart. That is what Jesus did. With Peter, after Jesus died and was resurrected, he met Peter on the seashore and asked him three questions that were the same: Do you love me? That question inspired Peter to find out if he really did love Jesus.

RICK: Jesus was a master at asking questions. What is the second point?



TODD: LOVE - to show the face of God. We have the opportunity to show the face of God to people by loving them and showing our love - even to our enemies. That is the secret code of Christianity, loving your enemies, which is very hard.

RICK: We did a program on that just two weeks ago. The third key to inspiration is what?



TODD: HOPE - to demonstrate potential in the future, to give people a roadmap for recovery, to give people a roadmap for success.

RICK: Key number 4?



TODD: INTEGRITY - to provide a moral foundation. Sometimes peoples' lives are so confused that you have to clearly articulate the moral foundation on which they should be operating.

RICK: The fifth key is what?



TODD: POWER - to create a psychological engine for momentum. It is the idea of giving the individual tools to change. It begins in the mind.

RICK: The sixth key to inspiration is what?



TODD: PURPOSE - to show the structure of one's future relevancy. The most important human need is to be relevant within community, within family. Giving somebody that purpose is what Jesus was all about. He gave us purpose.



RICK: Again, we can do that for others as well. And the seventh key to inspiration is what?



TODD: STORY - telling the right story. The power of story makes truth self-evident and memorable. We can remember interesting facts about a story forever, like the Good Samaritan. In fact, they become part of our language because they were pithy, short, on point and memorable.

RICK: We have seven keys that make up inspiration: QUESTION, LOVE, HOPE, INTEGRITY, POWER, PURPOSE and STORY. What do we do with them?

Jonathan, just a quick side point. We started this program 18 years ago next week, so next week is the 18th anniversary. But the very first program's theme Scripture was exactly the same Scripture we are using today.

JONATHAN: Oh, how neat.

RICK: That fits in really well. We often think of wanting to be *inspired*, but we need to be *inspirational* as well.

TODD: Jesus gave us the process and the formula for it.

RICK: So, the first key to inspiration in this formula is QUESTION - to create a thought in a potential disciple's heart.

TODD: We will look at a Scripture from the Mount of Beatitudes that happened right after Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. He was tempted by Satan, so physically he was low. But immediately after, he spoke in the presence of his disciples and multitudes and asked them great questions.

RICK: Go through the words of Jesus and see how many times he asks questions. It is astounding.

TODD: Over 300 times. As an aside, do you know what his most popular question was, Rick?

RICK: What?

TODD: "What do you want?" He asked it twice. He asked it to blind Bartimaeus, and he asked it to the disciples James and John.

**How can inspiration come through questions?
And as the famous song asks, what's love got to do with it?**



RICK: Asking the right questions is a way to inspire. Todd, with each of these Scriptures we are going to be going through, you isolate a formula within each. That formula is made up of some of these seven points. For instance, the next text we are going to be reading uses the formula:



QUESTION + PURPOSE + STORY

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Jesus to his disciples, in the presence of the multitudes:

Matthew 5:13-16: (NASB) ¹³*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.* ¹⁴*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;* ¹⁵*nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* ¹⁶*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*



RICK: All right, Todd, **QUESTION + PURPOSE + STORY.** Tell us about this Scripture. How can it help me to be inspirational like Jesus?

TODD: Well, Jesus used a great story. The story here is very small. He uses, *salt of the earth and light of the world.* He describes them. He says, "Rick, YOU are like the salt of the earth." "Rick, YOU are like the light of the world." That is the "story" part of it. He creates a story so we can understand the concept.

He asks the right question. He says, *but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it become salty again?* That question starts something in the heart that you cannot let go of. Jesus was good at that.

Now, think about who he was speaking to here. He was speaking to his disciples, but he was also speaking to a large group of people.

- Jesus spoke these beautiful words to the ordinary citizens of Israel.

He was giving them encouragement but giving them purpose, too. He was saying, "Hey, you are the light of the world. Let your light shine. You are the salt of the earth. You are the preserving quality that is in a rotten generation."

- He told them that their lives demonstrate a preserving quality to society.

If you consider the social, economic, political, secular and spiritual environment they were in, they needed all the inspiration they could get!

- He encouraged them with a question to clinch the thought and liberate the potential in each of us.

RICK: Sounds like us today.

TODD: Very much so, and I think that is the relevancy. As you give these formulas for inspiration, my encouragement would be for people listening to actually write down formulas they think they could use to inspire important loved ones in their life.

RICK: Jesus asked kind of a small question, but it was based on a very important story. When you say to somebody, "You are the salt of the earth,"



you are putting them in a position of great importance and then holding them to that standard. Let's continue...



Jesus to Saul of Tarsus:

Acts 26:14: (NASB) *And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*

RICK: That is a very powerful question!

TODD: What happened in Saul of Tarsus' heart and mind at that time? I think there was a flood of emotions that just overcame him and shamed him. Jesus just asked the question, and he let Saul do the work in his own heart, bringing also a flood of memories. He knew exactly what Jesus was talking about, but he said, *Who art thou, Lord?* And then Jesus revealed he was the one Paul had been persecuting. This question really created the psychological engine for change in the Apostle Paul.

RICK: It is fascinating to me that Jesus asked him that question in that way: *Why are you persecuting me?* Because the heart of Saul of Tarsus wanted to serve God.

TODD: He was a good man.

RICK: He was. But he was doing really bad things.

TODD: He was, but he was trying to follow what he felt was right in the Scriptures. I think Jesus saw that, which should give us hope. If we see people doing the wrong thing, this might be a great intervention tool - using the right question to get them back on track. You might say, "Todd, what are you doing?" Or, "Why are you doing that?"

RICK: By asking Saul that very pointed, purposeful question, literally it became the beginning of his turning his life around. Right then, right there he changed, because he now knew how to fulfill the desire of his heart.

TODD: Power was also a part of this, because Jesus showed himself in great power. Jesus gave Saul the physical evidence he was the Messiah, so he came with authority. The formula for this would be QUESTION + POWER + PURPOSE.

RICK: As we go through each of these seven keys of inspiration, while we are focusing right now on QUESTION, the idea is to understand that if I have opportunities, I can ask questions. If I can learn how to ask the right kinds of questions by looking at the kind Jesus asked, I can become inspirational like Jesus.

TODD: Amen.

RICK: How can we become like that? By studying the way he did things.



TODD: The power of a question is that the question allows the individual to do the heavy lifting themselves. It is not something that you are forcing on them. They are doing it themselves.

RICK: When you give somebody ownership of the answer, that is where inspiration comes in. Because when people own their experience, they tend to take much better care of it. Questioning gives the heavy lifting to the person being asked.

 **Lay the bricks, *Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video***

- *(Will Smith) You don't try to build a wall. You don't set out to build a wall. You don't say, I'm gonna build the biggest, baddest, greatest wall that has ever been built. You don't start there. You say, I'm gonna lay this brick as perfectly as a brick can be laid. You do that every single day, and soon you have a wall.*

RICK: That is such a great illustration. You cannot conquer the world all in one day, but you can conquer today as good as you possibly can, building one day upon the next upon the next upon the next. And pretty soon you have got something.

Jonathan, when I think about our experience here over 18 years, if somebody had told me we would be doing this for 18 years, I would have run because it was too big.

JONATHAN: It was huge!

RICK: But rather, you take it one small step at a time, and by going one small step at a time, there you have it.

Back to inspiration!



Hebrews 10:7,10: (NASB) ⁷*Then I said, behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of me) to do your will, O God.* ¹⁰*By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

TODD: This citation ends in our salvation, but it lays a groundwork for our salvation. It says *we have been sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* Remember, Jesus was attacked by Lucifer in the wilderness. Lucifer even recognized Jesus' power as the son of God. What did Jesus do? He denied the earthly ambition Satan offered him. He said, *Behold, I have come in the scroll of the book it is written to me to do the word of God.*



In this case, the LOVE of Jesus is shown in the fact he did not have any earthly ambition. His only ambition was to do the work of God, the work of sanctifying and reconciliation - the work he was supposed to do. He inspired people to follow God through his life.



RICK: When you see that ancient prophecy repeated by Jesus, he is saying, "This is why I am here. It is not for me. It is for the purpose of God's will for you." That is love at its highest, most powerful form.

TODD: The nearest we have to that in the physical world is the love of our mothers. If we have righteous mothers, we see in retrospect they gave their whole lives so we might live.



Serving others without the desire for anything in return:

Matthew 5:43-44: (NASB) ⁴³You have heard that it was said; you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say to you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

TODD: If you want to change somebody, if you want to change your enemy, how about the idea of showing them love? We have the Scripture that says, *Vengeance is mine sayeth the Lord*. There is no glory in vengeance, but Jesus was showing how we can change our enemies by loving them. That is one of the hardest things for me to do. I have tried it. It is hard. But Jesus said it, and that love is the change agent.

RICK: The lesson behind love is it is applicable everywhere in all aspects of our lives. Love, therefore, can be a tool to inspire others because love is also contagious.



Romans 12:9-10: (NASB) ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

TODD: Saul of Tarsus loved with hypocrisy. He loved his neighbor, but he only thought his "neighbor" was his fellow Jews who believed the way he did. But what did Jesus say? He showed the Apostle Paul how to love *without* hypocrisy.

It is interesting to see that Paul's whole life's mission was to show the church how to love without hypocrisy, how to feed the body, how to recognize the body, how to fit within the body. He emphasizes here that we are to love without being hypocritical. *Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good*. That is really hard for our flesh to do. Then Paul instructs, *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love*. How does he know that? Because he knew what it was like to do the opposite.



RICK: We now have two pieces of the puzzle on the table: Question and Love. Use questions as a tool wherever possible, because by asking someone a sincere, thought-provoking question, it gives them the responsibility of heavy lifting. Showing love is a way to inspire other people.

TODD: You can change a bad person's heart just by that.

RICK: Five more to go, but with just two keys so far, we can see the differences in our lives in terms of being able to inspire one another.



2 Corinthians 5:14: (KJV) *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

TODD: The STORY part of this Scripture is the word *constraineth*, meaning to hold closely or to compel. The Apostle Paul was telling us *the love of Christ constraineth us*. In fact, we appreciate Jesus' love so much that it attaches us to him in adoration, and we follow him because of it.

What is he doing by saying this? He is giving us the formula that if we love others just like Jesus loved us, then they will be attached to us. They will be *constrained*. They will be closely compelled to love us back and be a part of that life force.

RICK: And that is inspiration!

TODD: Yes. So, we have LOVE. We have STORY in the metaphor that is used, and then we have a PURPOSE in living a godly life.

RICK: If you think of your life in terms of, "I would love to be inspirational," I think it changes the way you think about things, because it takes some of "me" out of it and it puts "you" into my thinking. That is a great way to help us to be more effective with other people.

TODD: We can use the formulas from Jesus.

 **Make the choice, *Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video***

- (Ashton Kutcher) *Opportunities look a lot like work.*
- (Speaker) *To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could be. "I don't do well in math." You're right! You ain't never studied! "I'm not good at writing," because you've never written before.*
- (Will Smith) *There is a redemptive power that making a choice has. Rather than feeling that like you are an effect to all the things that are happening, make a choice. Just decide what it's going to be, who you're going to be, how you are going to be. Just decide.*



RICK: There is a redemptive power in making a choice. We are talking about choosing to live lives that are inspirational.

TODD: And it is work.

RICK: It is, but it is blessed work because the effect that it has on others is dramatic. That brings to us the next key, HOPE. Hope is to demonstrate potential in the future.

How can we give others inspiration through hope the way Jesus did?



Jesus to his disciples, in the presence of the multitudes:

Matthew 5:3-12: (NASB) ³*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ⁴*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* ⁵*Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.* ⁶*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.* ⁷*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.* ⁸*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* ⁹*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* ¹⁰*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ¹¹*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.* ¹²*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

TODD: Jesus was talking to the people about their existing condition. They were mourning. They were poor in spirit. They were hungering and thirsting for righteousness. He was basically saying, "Hey, you have already arrived. You have already accomplished these things that now have value. You will inherit the earth and be comforted. Yours is the kingdom of heaven. You shall receive mercy and will see God. Can you believe that? He said *blessed are the pure in heart for you shall see God*. He was taking their current life condition and saying, "Rick, you have already arrived." Now here is another way to look at that: If you are poor in spirit, you will receive the kingdom of God.

RICK: He was taking their current difficulties and showing them a better end result. He was showing them hope.

TODD: Right. He was talking about their life struggles and countering each struggle with a ray of hope. I think some of my most beautiful opportunities to give people hope have been just revealing to them that they are already halfway to their goal.

RICK: Sometimes we do not even think about that, because we are so tied up in the difficulties that we do not think about whatever progress has been made.

Make this practical. When someone is discouraged with life, how can I help them find hope?



TODD: By connecting them to their dreams and by showing them how to dream. Because without a dream, you will not have hope. That is what Jesus was showing them how to do. "Dream" not meaning being in some sort of dream state, but meaning the pathway Jesus showed. He gave them hope because he gave them real life footsteps to follow.



- Jesus was detailing the life struggles of the people he was speaking to and countering each struggle with a ray of hope. He characterized each struggle as worthwhile.
- Jesus took a genuine interest in the people who were invisible to society.
- Jesus showed the people qualities about themselves they were not aware of.
- Jesus connected the people with their dreams.
- Show others how to dream - in themselves, in others and in the future.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: John 14:21: (KJV) *He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me. And he that loveth me, shall be loved by my Father. And I will love him and will manifest myself unto him.* What an inspiring Scripture by our Lord Jesus. Acts 4:13: (Good News Bible) *The members of the council were amazed to see how bold Peter and John were and to learn that they were ordinary men of no education. They realized then that they had been companions of Jesus.*

"Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only for one second without hope." — *The Conduct of Life by Lewis Mumford*

RICK: Hope is an important part of the human framework but is not really tangible in a lot of ways. How do you grab ahold of hope? Is hope emotional? Intellectual? Psychological? What is it?

TODD: I think hope is a combination of our heart and our head. When we love God with our heart and our head, we love Him with all of our soul. But sometimes the issues of the vicissitudes of life overwhelm us so much that we no longer have a vision.

RICK: Without a vision, there really is no hope.

Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people perish...*



The Apostle Paul was a purveyor of hope by living it and showing us repeated examples:

Romans 4:18: (NASB) *In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, so shall your descendants be.*

TODD: The Apostle Paul was giving the Jewish Christians hope in their Christianity, starting back with something they knew very well - Abraham. He showed how Abraham's two wives, Hagar and Sarah, were pictures of the Old Covenant (Hagar) and the New Covenant (Sarah). Paul's technique was to use information they already knew and build upon it with new light. In this case, he taught that Abraham's wives were metaphors of something else.

RICK: We can do that as well. We can go back to Scripture and be inspired by it on the surface, but we can then be inspiring to others by elevating their thinking with additional meaning. That can give people hope.

TODD: The words of God are the most powerful words ever.

RICK: If you want to be inspirational, do not try to get all creative and philosophical. Use the words of God and Jesus.

The Apostle Paul's life work is one of the greatest examples of how he inspired us with hope. The resurrected Jesus gave him a daunting task through the messenger Ananias:

Acts 9:15-16: (KJV) *¹⁵Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

TODD: Jesus told Ananias to tell the Apostle Paul how many great things he would suffer because of Jesus.

RICK: Let's put this in context. Ananias...

TODD: ...did not like Saul of Tarsus.

RICK: Because Saul of Tarsus was coming to put him in prison. Jesus comes to Ananias in this vision and says, "No, he is a chosen vessel." Talk to me about the hope that comes from this particular verse.

TODD: When we go further in the Apostle Paul's life, the Apostle Paul was imprisoned. What kind of attitude do you think Paul had in prison? He did not say, "This is not fair. This is not right. I shouldn't be here!"

RICK: No, never.

TODD: What did he do? He started writing epistles, letters. He started doing the work of God.

All of us are in some sort of prison, either a physical prison, psychological prison, a financial prison, in a prison because of our families. The Apostle Paul inspires us with hope through his example of doing the work of God.



RICK: In my mind, Todd, what you are saying is, it is in two stages. First let's find the hope for our own lives. How do we see hope through our own "prison?" And once we can do that by applying Scripture, we can then begin seeing the hope through the prisons of others and show them the same thing.

Todd, so far we have talked about three things in detail.

TODD: The power of a QUESTION, the power of LOVE and the power of HOPE.

RICK: And with these three aspects, how do we inspire others?

TODD: We use them in the right formula and at the right time in different stages of their life, in our life.

RICK: We find the source for how to use them in the Scriptures. Then we use them to communicate with the heads and hearts of those that are around us so we can help them to find inspiration.

TODD: Being able to ask the right question can sometimes change the course of history for somebody. Showing them love is like showing them the face of God. Mother Theresa did it beautifully. She changed several people's lives. My mother did it in my life.

Giving people hope is showing people the future path they could follow, that there is light at the end of the tunnel and a silver lining at the end of that cloud.

RICK: We have reviewed the first three keys to inspiration and will move on to INTEGRITY, POWER, PURPOSE and STORY.

INTEGRITY is to provide a moral foundation.

TODD: My favorite example is when the Apostle Paul found Timothy floundering in discouragement, he reminded him of the faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother and said, *I believe that faith is in you, too.* Then he said, *God hath not given us the spirit of fear, Timothy. God has given us the spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind.* The Apostle Paul showed Timothy the integrity of faith in his mother and grandmother and then said, "Hey, I believe you have that, too."

RICK: Frankly, we live in a world where integrity does not seem to matter anymore. Let's lay out some Scriptures and reasoning on the idea of how integrity can help to inspire others the way Jesus did.



recap
recap





Acts 15:36-39: (NASB) ³⁶After some days Paul said to Barnabas, *Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.* ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. ³⁸But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

RICK: One of the things you love about the Bible is it is honest. Here is a sharp, difficult disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over this other man, *John called Mark*, to the point where they go separate ways. Show us integrity here.

TODD: The Apostle Paul got into this disagreement, and he decided not to take John Mark because of the integrity of his ministry. Paul was going into a foreign land, an antagonistic environment, and he knew he needed somebody he could trust.

This model was very clear to me in 2008 when I went over to China with another gentleman who was my equal or actually above me. He needed to be able to depend on me. I needed to depend on him. If there was a lack of trust or lack of commitment to the ministry like John Mark, then the whole thing could come crumbling down.

RICK: You went to China for the purpose of the ministry of the gospel, and that is a really hard place to do that.

TODD: It is a very antagonistic environment. We were followed by the Secret Service for 45 minutes. I remember that like it was yesterday; at night in a dark sedan with no lights on. They were watching me, and I needed somebody I could trust.

Now, if I was in that situation, the Apostle Paul was in that situation times ten. He did not want to take John Mark; Barnabas wanted to. Much later in the ministry, Paul called for John Mark to be included. John Mark had matured. He understood the commitment that was required for this ministry, and through integrity of the Apostle Paul at this moment, he inspired both Barnabas and John Mark to be better.

RICK: The interesting thing is John Mark, essentially by cutting out on them previously, showed that there was a little bit of a lack of integrity, saying he would do something but not following through. So, the difficulty was with the Apostle Paul sticking to what he really believed was the best thing for the ministry.

TODD: Yes.

RICK: And John Mark had the character to be able to accept the criticism even though they went separate ways, and he grew up through it and became a powerful ally of the Apostle Paul later.

TODD: He wrote the gospel of Mark, as probably the secretary for the Apostle Peter.



RICK: You can see how the integrity of Paul's stand attached itself to the integrity within John Mark, and everybody ends up winning as a result.

TODD: But they did not feel good at the moment. In fact, the Apostle Paul, I think, his resolve to go forward in his integrity is really the only consolation that he had in that struggle.

RICK: That is interesting.

TODD: He did not get the payoff until much later.

RICK: Integrity inspires because it shows how we can plow through while there is no payoff, in patience and in the idea that, "I am going in the right direction."

TODD: And Jesus showed it to us.

RICK: That is how we can inspire others.

 **Willing to give all, *Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video***

- *(Will Smith) You can't be scared to die for the truth. The truth is the only thing that is ever going to be constant.*
- *(Speaker) Most of you say you want to be successful. But you don't want it bad. You just kind of want it. You don't want it badder than you want to party. You don't want it as much as you want to be cool. Most of you don't want success as much as you want to sleep! Some of you love sleep more than you love success, and I'm here to tell you today, if you are going to be successful, you've got to be willing to give up sleep.*



Jesus comforting Peter:

John 21:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Tend My lambs. ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Shepherd my sheep. ¹⁷He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, do you love me? And he said to him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, tend my sheep.

TODD: After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Peter went back to the fishing business. His faith had become remote. Keep in mind, he just denied Jesus three times so he was likely remorseful about that. The integrity of Jesus is shown here by coming to Peter where he was. He did not wait for Peter to come crawling back, groveling on his knees. Jesus went to Peter. And what did Jesus do? He asked a question.

RICK: He was always asking questions.

TODD: But he also asked the same question three times. He gave Peter the opportunity to overcome his three denials. Nothing was explicit here; it was



just a nod for Peter to see the integrity of Jesus. It gave Peter the pattern of inspiring people in the future. We see QUESTION here with Jesus' question. We see Jesus' LOVE for Peter. We see Jesus' INTEGRITY by not rubbing Peter's nose in it. We see PURPOSE because Jesus gave him a purpose: *Feed my sheep*. We see STORY because he uses that metaphor. We have the INTEGRITY of Jesus Christ here packaged with those other four inspirational formulas becoming exponential in its effect.

RICK: Jesus went to find Peter, because Jesus knew Peter was damaged. He also knew that within that damage was incredible potential. His integrity brought him to Peter, and by expressing Jesus' own integrity to Peter, Peter now learned to express his own integrity to others over time.

TODD: Peter had that pattern for his own ministry.

RICK: Peter became an incredibly inspirational figure - especially for us now who always make mistakes, because he showed us that overcoming mistakes is possible if your integrity is sound. That is an incredible example.



Jesus confronting Judas:

John 13:26-28: (NASB) ²⁶Jesus then answered, that is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him. So when he had dipped the morsel, he took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him what you do, do quickly. ²⁸Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose he had said this to him.

TODD: INSPIRATION was as the apostles reflected on this experience, they knew Jesus knew that Judas was going to "out" him. But they also knew the prohibition on evil speaking. Did Jesus say, "You are the one," to all of the disciples there? No, because Judas had not done it yet. Jesus gave Judas the opportunity to make the decision himself. Even though they were in a group of the 12 apostles, and keep in mind Jesus just washed Judas' feet - Judas smelled the perfume from the alabaster box, the anointing oil - still Judas went ahead to do this work. I think the INTEGRITY here is the demonstration that Jesus did not shame Judas in public.

**The power of Jesus' miracles and teaching gave inspiration -
what power do we have to inspire?**



We received an email from a listener: Todd's creative thoughts have inspired me for years. I would like him to answer:

1. What is your Gospel study plan? How much time do you spend reading the Scriptures daily? Do you spend a lot of time on Gospel commentaries, or do you mostly focus your studies on the Scriptures themselves?...



TODD: I do read the Gospel. I read all the Scriptures, but I also like to listen to people teaching us about the Scriptures. Remember Philip when he met the eunuch in the chariot? He said, *How can I know it unless some man teach me?* Commentaries are very valid, but we have to measure everything against the word of God. I do read the Scriptures, but I also read plenty of commentaries.

2. I've enjoyed your thoughts about how Christ touches us through our senses (Please refer to our program from May 3, 2015, "So, How Does Jesus Get You Going?") as well as this inspirational message dissecting Christ's teachings into basic elements like hope, power and story. Do these concepts just come to you when you wake up in the morning or do you have some other way of developing such inspiring ideas? May the Lord bless you as you serve Him and inspire others to do the same!

TODD: This particular listener is very inspirational to me, too, and he reminds me of this Coke bottle. It was designed in 1904 with this purpose: if it were broken into 1,000 pieces, you would be able to tell it was a Coke bottle just from one small piece. So it is with our lives - we should be recognizable as a true follower of Christ by any little piece of our lives that someone comes across.



To answer the second question, I think differently. I am an idealist and an evangelist, and I ask a lot of questions.

RICK: So, it is an all-the-time-thing with you? I can relate to that. Thank you for that e-mail.



The next key to inspiration is POWER, to create a psychological engine for momentum. Just a few examples: Jesus to Nicodemus, Peter walking on the water, the catching of the 153 fish, Matthew 24...what do these examples show us in terms of POWER and INSPIRATION?

TODD: In Nicodemus's experience, he was one of Jesus' enemies. He came to Jesus at night, so Jesus saw he was taking a big risk within his political circles. But when Nicodemus asked him how this all happens, Jesus said, *You need to be born again.*

In the case of Jesus walking on water, that was a very powerful experience because Peter saw that through his faith, Jesus would carry him over the difficult struggles of life. I think that is a metaphor not only for Peter and his future ministry, but for us - that we can be above all those difficulties and all those storms in our life.

In the catching of the 153 fishes (John 21), the POWER of Jesus is in directing us where to fish and to showing us what to do in our life. We need to make sure we stay close to God and Jesus in prayer.



In Matthew 24 the disciples said, *Jesus, what are the signs of your second coming, and what are the signs that will be in the world? When will all of this happen?* Jesus provided answers to those questions. What does that do for POWER? All we have to do is make sure we ask Jesus the right questions. When we have needs, we ask in prayer.

RICK: POWER is not *from* us but *through* us.

TODD: Amen. And you know what? The light that shines *from* us comes after the light that shines in us.

RICK: Without that, we are really powerless in terms of inspiring others.

TODD: We are a conductor, and if we do not allow ourselves to be full of the Holy Spirit and full of the love of God, we are going to conduct an uncertain signal.

RICK: We do not want that. That is the wrong kind of power.

 **Talent and skill, *Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video***

- *(Will Smith) The separation of talent and skill is one of the greatest misunderstood concepts for people who are trying to excel, who have dreams, they want to do things. Talent you have naturally. Skill is only developed by hours and hours and hours of beating on your craft.*
- *(Speaker) If competitive challenge is what excites people, why then do we choose the easiest challenges? Common sense. Think about it. It is easy to be boxed in a limited life. Tougher to compete for expansion.*

RICK: We are all inspired by going further but often choose the easy way out.



TODD: I like the Southwest Airline's policy. They hire for talent and train for skill, because you can train for skill but you cannot train talent. That is what Jesus did for the ministry. God is the one who selected the disciples and turned them over to Jesus. We are called of God and then we are trained by Jesus.

RICK: Each of us has the ability to be inspirational. The ability to inspire is not a talent; it is a skill. It can be learned. It can be rehearsed, and then it can be generated if we understand these seven keys.

2 Timothy 1:6-7: (NASB) *⁶For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

RICK: Obviously we have been given a spirit of power. How do we fit this spirit of power into this concept of inspiring others?

TODD: We have to realize it. The Apostle Paul gave Timothy the gift of prophecy by the laying on of his hands. Timothy's temperament was a little weak. He was a little timid. Paul noticed he was hiding from the ministry and quenching the work of the ministry. As a mentor, he did not make fun of him. Instead, he helped Timothy overcome that inertia of wasting time.



RICK: "Overcome the inertia of wasting time." Wasting time creates this momentum that once you get into it, it is hard to get out of.

TODD: It is. We call it "mud in the wheels." The Apostle Paul reminded Timothy that he was selected by Jesus, that the Lord had a special interest in him. He was showing Timothy how to tap into that power. He said, *God has not given us the spirit of fear but of love and of power and of a sound mind.* Sound mind is what you talked about just a moment ago. The Apostle Paul said we should *be transformed by the renewing of our mind.* It is an intentional, logical, formulaic response to the love of God.

RICK: That is where the POWER comes from - the transformation of the mind. Again, it is not the power of your own ego or thinking. It is the power of the transformation of your mind, and then that power can be used to inspire others. Todd, you have said it in a lot of different ways, when you inspire others, you change their lives.

TODD: You do. The difficult part of that is the only reason the Apostle Paul was able to do that for Timothy was he felt helpless himself. He was in deep. He was under stripes. He was in prison. And you know what? He probably looked to Joseph's example in prison and saw the awesome power of God to bring Joseph before the Pharaoh, and he knew Timothy could have the same experience.

RICK: What you are saying is, the Apostle, by knowing the Old Testament, drew on the examples of those heroes of faith and said, "Here am I in a similar situation; God is with me as well." He drew the power from those experiences and said, "Let that power run through me."

TODD: That is the importance of a Gospel study plan just like our listener emailed about.

RICK: All of these keys can work together with one another or can be individual tools. Learn what it means to have power, where the power comes from, what kind of power it is, and then to express it in a godly, loving fashion to actually inspire somebody else's life and experience to take a different direction.

Perhaps the Apostle Paul remembered what the Queen told Nebuchadnezzar about Daniel who was also in captivity:

Daniel 5:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰*The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.* ¹¹*There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans and diviners.* ¹²*This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.*



TODD: The Apostle Paul only had the Old Testament Scriptures to refer to, so he would have been able to refer back to see the Spirit of God working in the hearts of His servants. I think Daniel was a perfect example. Look at what the queen says, *in whom is the spirit of the holy gods*. The Apostle Paul was given the holy Spirit.

How else does the queen describe Daniel? *Illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods*. These were so powerful within Daniel that he was able to change the Babylonish culture. He was able to influence the highest king of the land, and that was the promise Jesus gave to Paul through Ananias. He said, *You will speak before kings*. This was likely an encouragement to the Apostle Paul when he was in prison.

RICK: Daniel, by using the power of God, was able to change the Babylonish culture. We, by using the power of the Spirit, may not change the culture of the world at this time, but the power of that Spirit will change the culture of the world, because we are given what is called the ministry -

TODD: - of reconciliation.

RICK: Exactly. And that comes through the power of the Spirit of God - not because we are so good, but because the power of the Spirit of God is focused on the plan of God.

TODD: Jesus talked about this. He said, "Are you excited about the miracles that I am doing? You will do greater works than these," and that is the power of bringing a helpless heart to God in our current ministries.

RICK: So, the power is going to be really focused on doing exactly the right thing all the time.



No Plan B, Best Inspirational Speech Ever, Motivational Video

- (Speaker) *All men are created equal; some work harder in pre-season. I'm going to say it again because you might have missed it. All men are created equal; some work harder in pre-season.*
- (Will Smith) *The first step before anybody else in the world believes it is you have to believe it. There is no reason to have a Plan B, because it distracts from Plan A.*

RICK: I love that phrase, "there is no reason for a Plan B." If it is the power of God through God's Spirit to purpose His plan that is driving us, there is no reason for anything else. If we can harness and show that power to others, it can be inspiring to them as well. That is an incredible thought, not only to apply these things to ourselves but to be able to move others with that application.



PURPOSE - to show the structure of one's future relevancy.



Matthew 16:24-26: (NASB) ²⁴*Then Jesus said to his disciples, If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

TODD: Jesus gave the disciples a purpose. He gave them a three-step process: deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. That is a powerful purpose, and the disciples were already disenchanted with their secular and religious environments and their socio-economic conditions. They had the opportunity to follow the Messiah.

RICK: Disenchantment with the present gives you purpose for the future if you are given the right input.

TODD: A clear vision.



The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25:1-12: (NASB) ¹*Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. ⁵Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him. ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the prudent, give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. ⁹But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other virgins also came, saying, Lord, lord, open up for us. ¹²But he answered, Truly I say to you, I do not know you.*

RICK: Give us a rundown on putting PURPOSE to work in this particular parable, and then how can we express it to others in terms of inspiration?

TODD: One of Jesus' most familiar refrains is, *watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation*. The way he spoke this story actually gave the people a purpose. If you were a disciple listening to this story, you would be self-determined in your heart to say, "I need to make sure I have oil in my lamp, or I better make sure I am not sleeping. How can I watch and pray when I am sleeping? When I hear that shout, I am going to listen for that shout, which is going to require me to watch and pray. And you know what? I want to be one of those wise virgins that rises at the shout and trims my lamp, and if I don't have enough in it right now, I am going to go buy some before the shout."

This was a purpose Jesus gave for their daily life with the big message, if you do not have oil in your vessels, you better go out and get some right now because sooner or later it is going to be too late.

RICK: You have to be engaged in executing the purpose.

JONATHAN: What does the oil really mean?



TODD: It is the Holy Spirit working in our bodies. The light that shines from us only comes after the light that shines *in* us, and that is the power of the Holy Spirit shining in our life.

RICK: The purpose is not self-generated; it is God-generated through us. As it comes through us and goes toward others - that is where we can have our purpose.

TODD: People should be able to see the face of God in us.

RICK: That is a challenge.



A CQ App user comments: Hello, Rick, Jonathan and Todd! I made an effort to get up early just to hear you live and what a blessing! I'm working very hard to be like our Lord. I live by 2 Timothy 1:7 everyday. *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.* I am striving hard to be an inspiration with the help of my one and only savior, Jesus. You guys give me inspiration also. Love you guys!



The Parable of the Good Samaritan:

Luke 10:25-37: (NASB) ²⁵And a lawyer stood up and put him to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶And he said to him, What is written in the Law? How does it read to you? ²⁷And he answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. ²⁸And he said to him, You have answered correctly; do this and you will live. ²⁹But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? ³⁰Jesus replied and said, A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. ³¹And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, ³⁴and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you. ³⁶Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands? ³⁷And he said, The one who showed mercy toward him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do the same.

TODD: The big question here was from the lawyer, and he was asking Jesus, *Who is my neighbor?* At that point, the Jews thought only other Jews were their neighbors, but Jesus was bringing in a big picture of the Good Samaritan who was doing the work of God. The point here is if we want to live the right purpose, we need to make sure that we live by the principles of God and not be constricted when somebody needs our help.

RICK: Again, PURPOSE is not just saying, "I've got to make myself more Christ-like." It is making ourselves more Christ-like by living the example of Jesus. It is bigger than me.

JONATHAN: Be contagious.



RICK: Yes, absolutely. We are finally at the seventh key of inspiration, STORY, to make truths self-evident and memorable. It is interesting to me, Todd, how you put these together, because QUESTIONS and STORY are like two bookends here. You ask the right questions and put the impetus on that individual to do the heavy lifting. Telling a story - if you tell the right kind of story - makes them think.



Talk to us about how STORY works, how Jesus used it and how we can learn to use it.

TODD: Jesus used STORY to package up difficult new truths he was trying to tell people, not only so they could understand, but so they could be "unpacked" throughout the whole Gospel Age.

RICK: So, your first point is that STORY was important to get new truths in place.

TODD: I overheard my son disciplining his five-year-old son. His five-year-old son was not sharing his toys. I overheard my son say, "Our family is a sharing family." That is a story and a concept my grandson will never forget - his family is a sharing family, and he should stay true to those ideals. That is a lot more powerful than just saying, "You need to share." This packages the concept. It says, "Hey, you have something inside you, Grandson, and you are part of this family, and we are a sharing family."

The other thing that is interesting to me is we take all of our actions in life based upon the feelings of the stories we tell ourselves. For example, we observe a fact in life and then tell ourselves a story about that fact.

Let's say somebody cuts us off on the highway. That is a fact. Then we tell ourselves a story about that fact. We can either have a positive story or a negative story. We then have feelings based upon the story, and if we tell ourselves that person is a bad driver, we take action based upon that feeling. The proper action is to slow down and get out of their way. The improper action is to create more angst on the highway.

RICK: But the only fact in the matter is what actually happened.

TODD: Exactly.

RICK: Everything else is fabricated.

TODD: But our actions are based upon the feelings we have from the story we told ourselves.

RICK: We all tell ourselves stories about our lives all the time. Because these stories are fabricated based on a fact somewhere, we have to be careful what story we listen to because the emotions generated are what end up driving us. It could be a completely fictitious thing in our minds driving us, and then we missed the point.



TODD: Right. Now, just think of this in the terms of Jesus. His reactions were based upon the feelings he had from the stories he was telling himself based on the facts. Remember, Jesus said in Hebrews 10:7: *Lo, I come in the volume of the book it is written of me to do Your will.* So, the fact was he was being persecuted - actually crucified - but what was the story he told himself? This is the will of God.

This gave him a good feeling because he was doing God's will, and so his action was to be *a sheep to the slaughter.* (Uncomplaining and willing.)

RICK: That is an example of telling a factual story based on the facts, then finding the value of the story and living the value. Because of that, we sit here totally inspired.

TODD: We have positive momentum because of Jesus.

RICK: And we can do the same for others.

Galatians 4:21-24: (NASB) ²¹*Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?* ²²*For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman and one by the free woman.* ²³*But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise.* ²⁴*This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.*

TODD: For the brethren in Galatia, the Apostle Paul helped them understand that transition from the Jewish Age to the Gospel Age, from the hope of the Law to the hope in Jesus. What did the Apostle Paul do? He used STORY and showed that the transition between those ages was pictured in Abraham's experience. He gave them information they already believed to be true but gave them new information, a very tangible experience they could already understand and already believed to be true.

RICK: He built upon something that they knew and helped them see something they did not know. That is the power of telling a story. A story is not necessarily something made up, but it is the relaying of an experience or some other thing that creates the reality in your own life.

TODD: Yes. And it could be as simple as:

Matthew 23:37: *How often would I have gathered you like a hen would have gathered her chickens?*

RICK: That is a powerful story!

TODD: A story synthesizes and engages.

RICK: The concept of STORY is powerful. The stories we tell to ourselves and others can be directly from Scripture to build truth upon truth upon truth.

What about looking around your life and saying, "Who inspires me in my life right now?"





TODD: I think that is a great tool. I look back on my history teacher, Robert Hines, in high school in Maryland - he was terrific. Another one, Donald Curry in Ottawa, Ontario. These are people whose inspiration lives in my heart. The facts change, but the story remains the same.

RICK: And they changed you.

TODD: They changed me.

RICK: Inspiration changes us. We can pass that inspiration one to another.

Genesis 1:26: (KJV) *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*

TODD: God said, *let us make man in our own image after our likeness.* We think of that as a visual image, but it is really mental and moral. When we think about the power of God, we think of ourselves as physical with heart, intellectual with intuition and with spirit. I think this inspiration formula is borne out of our Heavenly Father and His son, Jesus.

Inspiration is a tool Jesus taught by his example. We often listen to his words, but we should look at his actions and at the POWER behind his words and how he changed lives. We want to change peoples' lives. Let's look at the formula: Ask the right QUESTION, show them LOVE by showing them the face of God, give them HOPE, INTEGRITY, POWER, PURPOSE and STORY.

RICK: We walk away from a conversation like this feeling more focused, more directed and seeing more hope and possibility. That is what inspiration is. We need to bring that one to another, and if we just apply what Jesus taught us, we can actually be positive movers in the lives of other people. Be inspirational! Be like Jesus and see whose lives you can change.

*So, how can I inspire like Jesus?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Jesus used a process to inspire

Luke 4:18-19: (KJV) ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me *a)* to heal the brokenhearted, *b)* to preach deliverance to the captives, and *c)* recovering of sight to the blind, *d)* to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹*e)* To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.



Jesus showing respect for his mother:

John 2:1-11: (NASB) ¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ²and both Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, they have no wine. ⁴And Jesus said to her, Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come. ⁵His mother said to the servants, whatever he says to you, do it. ⁶Now there were six stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. ⁷Jesus said to them, Fill the water pots with water. So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter. So they took it to him. ⁹When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, ¹⁰and said to him, Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now. ¹¹This beginning of his signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

- Miracles are a visual story.
- Jesus shows he was human - Leadership is what you do in the moment.
- Calling his mother *Woman* was a nod to Genesis 3:15. Would have been an encouragement to her that her son was really the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Other ways Jesus showed HOPE:

- a. Jesus gave hope by performing miracles. The people saw a supernatural power that was in play on the earth (the incipient kingdom of God). The feeding of the loaves and the fishes showed Jesus' ability to merge the rational with the irrational: Jesus feeding 5,000 (plus wives and children!) with bread and fish.
- b. Jesus showed his disciples how they could be relevant in life and then amplified their relevance by giving them spiritual gifts.
- c. Jesus helped people see the truth about them.
 - a. Helped others to see they had already reached their goals.
 - b. Showed them the ingredients to live that they have already been given were valuable.

Other examples where Jesus delivered hope:

- Woman at the well
- Nicodemus
- Zacchaeus
- Nathaniel (under the tree studying the prophecies of the Messiah)
- Jairus - ruler of the Synagogue (by healing his daughter)



- Man blind from birth (by healing him)

More on John Mark:

Barnabas did not fall off the map after this confrontation with the Apostle Paul; he continued to be involved in the ministry as he is mentioned in Galatians 2. According to an early Church father named Papias, John Mark went on to be the interpreter for the Apostle Peter and wrote the Gospel of Mark. Yet, when John Mark was younger, the Apostle Paul could not trust him for the ministry and thus he used the tough side of “provoke” to inspire him to get back on track. We are inspired by the Apostle Paul’s confidence to stay true to the principles of integrity (even in difficulty) and let our Lord’s perfect work be performed in him and in others.