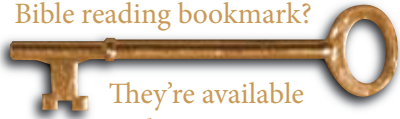


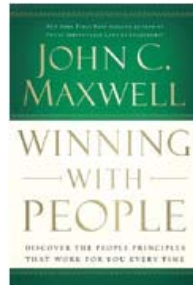
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first move in relationships. So I figured, Why not me? I started to take a givers approach to life, focusing on what I could give in relationships. And often I tried to do it without an expectation of receiving something in return. I discovered that when I added value to people, many desired to add value back to me. When that happened, the relationships developed an incredible synergy and went to a new level.

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Golden Key Discussion Questions

- 1) Of the six golden keys in this series, which one has challenged you the most? Why? How have you begun to use the key in your life?
- 2) What kind of seed are you planting in your relationships? Tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, love, peace, thankfulness, forgiveness? Have you identified any bad seed you would like to stop planting? Anger, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, rage, malicious behavior, slander, dirty language, lying.
- 3) How do you feel the crop of your relationships and friendships is at this time? Do you have a bounty of relationships? Are your relationships healthy and fruitful? Are there any relationships you can think of in your life that need attention, like better communication, building friendship, acts of service, a kind-hearted gift?
- 4) Do you see heavenly rewards as a reality? Do you think of heavenly rewards often? How are you motivated to give by the idea of heavenly rewards? When you think of your relationships and friendships, do you believe Jesus will say to you, "Well done, let's party!" when you get to heaven?

SERMON NOTES: WEEK SIX



The Big Picture Principle

(an excerpt from *Winning with People*, by John C. Maxwell)

In the early years of my career, I did not have a correct view of life. I approached life as if it were a slot machine. I wanted to put as little as possible into it, and I always hoped to hit the jackpot. I'm embarrassed to say that I often had a similar approach to my interaction with people. I was more focused on what people could do for me than what I could do for them. As a result, I would try to make relational "withdrawals" without ever having made any "deposits." Needless to say, I was not very successful. As I spent more time working with others, my thinking slowly began to change. I began to learn the Big Picture Principle, to see people in a different light, and to place a higher value on them. Once my attitude started changing, so did my actions. I started to invest in people simply because they had value. They were important. And I found that when I focused on what I could give rather than what I could get, people blossomed, relationships matured, and life was more rewarding. After I started to make giving my goal, I often felt that I received more from people than I was able to give. Over the course of many years, I began learning to invest in people first and often. Somebody has to make the

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Looking Long Term
October 18/19, 2008

At NCCTK we are getting a key chain of golden keys for winning relationships!

Key One: Looking Inward Luke 6:31 - *Treat others the way you want them to treat you*

Key Two: Looking Outward Luke 10:27

Key Three: Looking Upward Luke 6:36-37

Treat others the same way your Heavenly Father treats you.

Key 4: Looking Deeper with Dr. Awad: Treat others the way they need to be treated not how we think they deserve to be treated.

Luke 6:27-28

Key 5: Looking Below and Beyond- Trust is the foundation of all relationships. **Luke 6:47-49**

Today we're looking at Key 6: Looking Long Term Luke 6:38

I. What you receive is directly related to what and why you give.

1.The more you give, the more you will receive, in this life and the next. Luke 6:38 - *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

2.You can learn to give what the people in your life need you to give. Luke 6:40 - *Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.*

3.What you choose to give in this life does not have to be dependent on what you are getting. How you give will influence how others give.

Luke 6:41 - *And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.*

The High Road Principal: We go to a higher level when we treat others better than they treat us.

II. So, what kind of seed are you sowing, and what exactly are you growing?

1.The crop always accurately identifies the seed.

Luke 6:43 - *A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thorn bushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. If you plant corn, you will get corn. If you plant a thorn, you will get a thorn. If you plant nothing, you will be forlorn.*

Webster: forlorn: sad and lonely because of isolation or desertion, being in poor condition, nearly hopeless

2.The health and bounty of your crop points to how good a gardener you are.

Luke 6:45 - *A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.*

The Gardening Principal: All relationships need cultivation

3.We get to enjoy the great eating of great relationships. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

The Boomerang Principal: When we help others, we help ourselves

4.Your best crop will only be ripe and ready to eat in Heaven with Jesus. Luke 6:35; 35 - *Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.*

Treat others the way you want them to treat you, and see what God does in your relationships. Just wait and see all the reward He has ready to give you when you hear Jesus say:

Matthew 25:23 - *Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful... let's celebrate together!*