

# Sermon Notes

## God's Secret Weapon Part 7

### February 17<sup>th</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- **God's Secret Weapon:** God's Secret Weapon? His love for us all!!!
  - o **Part 6: Walking in Truth**
    - Because of God's love, you don't need to live a lie anymore. Step into the light!
- **Part 7: Bearing Fruit for the Kingdom**
- Problem: Complacent consumer Christianity. People who are in it only for themselves. Internal focus.
- Christ sacrificed for us so we could learn to sacrifice for others. Let's let the dominoes fall on that idea!!
  - o Difference between dogs and cats joke – Let God's love for us leads us to sacrifice not complacency.
- Parable of the sower. **Matthew 13:1-9...Matthew 13:18-23**
  - o Path: the message bounces off and does nothing.
    - I've been there. Sorry Orville. See you on the other side!
  - o Rocky/shallow soil: they quit when it gets hard. They don't understand the sacrifice. **Luke 9:23-25**
    - It's about them and what they want...but it is short sighted. Lose your very self.
  - o Thorny soil: They get it...but don't understand the priority necessary for it to work.
    - Like the person who "believes" in saving for retirement...but just never does!!
    - Have the wisdom to set aside nice things for better things. **Matthew 13:44-46**
  - o Good Soil: They hear and understand. The message, the sacrifice, the priority...and the purpose.
    - This is who we are. We believe. We stand in the hard times. We stay focused on the main thing. AND we make a difference. 2023 Missions...Lakeside...Alborn...West Duluth...etc.
- A couple weeks ago we prayed for those who have spiritual/financial wounds.
- People who have served powerfully, who are tired, burned out...can have a spiritual sacrifice wound.
  - o I've been there. Sacrificed without understanding the other side. I didn't believe **Matt 11:28-30**.
  - o "Holy Contradictions" coming after Easter. Like **Luke 9:23-25 vs Matt 11:28-30**.
    - So, which is it?? Easy and light or constant self-denial and carrying crosses?????
    - Both...unless you miss the point of easy and light. Then you're set up to be rocky soil.
      - "Just dig a little deeper!!" isn't always good advice. Not for the long haul for sure.
  - o What is the point of easy and light??
    - Put the other yokes down: please everyone, money, looks, have everything, be smarter, do better, carry everyone, save the world...serving your wounds and grudges, baggage, etc
    - Carry the one yoke: redeemed follower of Jesus.
    - Believe for your reward. **Mark 10:28-31** You sell everything for a field with treasure!
- Western bias: seeing everything as individual rather than from the group perspective.
  - o We need each other for Jesus' yoke to be easy and his burden light.
    - The Body of Christ isn't one person giving everything, but each of us doing our part.
    - Clear from **Ephesians 4:11-16**.
    - But, I want to look at **2 Corinthians 8:13-15**.
      - Context: offering for the believers in Jerusalem suffering famine.
      - Our Context: OneLife needs others to carry the yoke with them. We will answer.
        - o Why? To carry the gospel message forward and help our brothers and sisters.
        - o We are losing white America for Jesus. "White man's religion"?? Not anymore. ALL denominations are losing white America.
  - o We will win if we sacrifice together for the Kingdom of God. It'll be worth it! Easy and light!
- We've got an adventure we are about to embark on. It will take sacrifice, effort, and faith in God.
  - o If we stand together then we will win this battle. Let's do that and believe to win the prize!
  - o Close with **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**.
    - Let's sow generously, believe for replenishment, and for the Lord to be praised!
- Get prayer by emailing the prayer team: [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag)