



"building a church for the unchurched"



The Journey
Week of 01.31.10

Through The Roof—Heartland's Vision

By Michael Maybee

"That is so you! You would be the leader/faith person," I said. "And of course those around you would have that reaction Dan described, you know — rolling their eyes and saying 'Oh no, there she goes again.'" "And you would be the administration/logistics guy!" my wife replied. "You'd be figuring out all the details of how we were going to get it done." Now in the past this might have been a bad start to a worse day. We might have received those words from one another as criticism. But today we laughed together as we celebrated how differently God has wired each of us, and how he uses our uniqueness for his purposes.

My wife, Terri, and I are better equipped to enjoy Dan's message today because we each are learning more about how God has gifted us, and to embrace those gifts. It was especially helpful because, just like Heartland, we need to occasionally take a step back and remind ourselves why we do the things we do. We need to take inventory of all the activities we devote time to and ask ourselves some questions. Questions like, "Is this something God is calling me to right now," and "If I say yes to this, what am I going to have to say no to." Perhaps a bigger question for some of us is, "What do I need to say 'no' to so that I can say yes to the best God has for me?"

Now I want to be careful. The enemy of the best is not necessarily "bad" or sinful stuff. No, most often the enemy of the best is all that other good stuff that I can choose to be involved in and spend my time on. It is important to remember that God has a special "best" for each of us; a special best use of our unique gifts, talents, and temperament. So if you have no idea what your gifts are or how God wants to use you to advance his kingdom, this is a shameless plug for the "What You Do Best in the Body of Christ" class. You will find a link in the Resources section of The Journey that will help you learn more and get signed up.

With all that said, I feel compelled to touch on one more point. With the gift of administration comes the ability to identify obstacles and difficulties and figure out a way around them. Unfortunately, I can have a huge blind spot when the obstacle is ME. You see as Dan listed those survey responses of all the negative things "un-churched" people believed or thought about "church people," too many of them sounded familiar because at one time or another, I have been some of those things.

So today's message reminded me that at the very top of my list of "bests" is to be a little more like Jesus today than I was yesterday. The best way I can do that is to get to know him better by studying his life and teachings, and spending time with him in prayer. Perhaps you are still exploring the claims of Jesus or just feel like you need a little help along the way to knowing him better. If so, you may want to consider getting into a 1:1 Spiritual Mentoring relationship. Perhaps you, like me, have been doing your best to follow Jesus for a long time and want to "dive deeper." You may want to look into the new Deep Dive theology class offering. Again, you will find info on both by following the links at the end of this document.

The other thing at the top of my "bests" list is to do everything I can to introduce someone who doesn't know him yet to Jesus. There are many ways I might play a part in someone's journey to Jesus, but God has some "best" ways for me to do that. He has some best ways for you, too. Come and join us in exploring our gifts and in putting them to work in fulfilling Heartland's vision. Come, be one more valuable part in this church for the "un-churched."

"Our Lord never proclaimed a cause; He proclaimed personal devotion to Himself. To be a disciple is to be a devoted love-slave of the Lord Jesus."

~ Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, July 2nd

(You are encouraged to use the SOAP – Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer Method for a guide. Click [here](#) for an example SOAP journal entry. Page numbers refer to "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

monday, 02.01.10

Read: [Mark 2](#) (pg. 685)

tuesday, 02.02.10

Read: [Romans 12](#) (pg. 776)

wednesday, 02.03.10

Read: [1 Corinthians 12](#) (pg. 786)

thursday, 02.04.10

Read: [Ephesians 4](#) (pg. 801)

friday, 02.05.10

Read: [Isaiah 40](#) (pg.492)

If you don't already receive weekly email notification about The Journey, click [here](#) to sign up.

Grow (resources to help you in your study)

- **Sunday's Sermon:** Click [here](#) for podcast, or here for [video](#)
- [What You Do Best in the Body of Christ](#) by Bruce Bugbee
- [Heartland 2010 Big Rocks](#) — in further detail

Go (action steps)

- Sign up for the [What You Do Best](#) class to identify and use your spiritual gifts
- Sign up for the [Deepdive](#) theology class
- Create a “giving plan” and put it into motion
- **GO**—Sign up to serve: email Lisa Zulke by clicking [here](#)
- **GROW**—Join a small group, a 1:1 spiritual mentorship, or find out about the many other [ways to grow](#)
- **GIVE**—click [here](#) to make an online gift to Heartland and learn how you can set up recurring gifts

Small Group/ 1:1 Question Samplers:

1. Per the sermon, Dan described the unchurched as people who are “never-churched”, “once-churched”, “dis-churched”, or even “too-churched”. Do any of those descriptions describe your spiritual background and journey? Explain.
2. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, what are they and how are you using them?
3. Per Mark 2:1-5, is there a corner to someone's mat that you're carrying right now?
4. Or do you feel more like the man on the mat?