



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Two: Training For The Prize

Choosing The Right Side & Remaining on His Team

Evening Sermon by Ray Reynolds (August 5, 2012)

Introduction: As the Olympics are going on right now we can't help but think about competing for the gold medal. However, Paul urges us to be focused on our eternal prize (**I Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 3:14**). He himself made it his primary goal to get to heaven (**II Timothy 4:6-8**). In this series of lessons, we are going to consider what it will take to train for the prize. The first step we discussed was finding the right trainer. In this lesson, we will discuss the second step which is choosing the right side and how to remain on the right team. Runners often say, "Running with others will help you run faster and longer." Jesus calls us to join His team. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Jesus Knows Our Choice Determines Our Faithfulness (Matthew 26:69-73)

- A. Companionship With Christ
- B. Compassion Like Christ
- C. Confidence In Christ
- D. Conformity To Christ

II. Jesus Knows Our Choice Determines Our Fruitfulness (John 15:1-8)

- A. The Analogy
- B. The Teaching
- C. The Warning
- D. The Promise

III. Jesus Knows Our Choice Determines Our Fearlessness (Matthew 8:24-27)

- A. God's Team Needs Fearless Competitors
- B. God's Team Needs Fearless Communicators
- C. God's Team Needs Fearless Crusaders
- D. God's Team Needs Fearless Cross-Bearers

Conclusion: How is your faithfulness, fruitfulness, and fearlessness? Jesus alone can provide the assistance you need in running this Christian race. He said, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" (**Matthew 11:28-30**) Are you ready to join the Lord's team? Are you ready to come to run the race that is set before you? Are you ready to lay your burdens down? Come to Jesus!!!

WORD OF THE DAY = "TRAINING"