

War Effort – Unity of Command

March 4-5, 2017 – Jim Burgen

Community:

1. Share a story (funny or not) where you responded negatively to authority. What were the consequences of your response?
2. Do you have authority over something (or someone) in life? How do you exercise that authority?

Core:

1. **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** Take a closer look at Matthew 28:18. Do you think it is important that Jesus made this statement? Does this teach you anything new about Jesus?
2. Now look at Matthew 28:19. Jim talked about how, when Jesus said “Go”, that it was not a *request*, but a *command*. Does this change your perspective on this passage? What are some parts of life where Jesus is commanding you to obey? Are you obeying Him?
3. What hinders you from obeying Jesus’ command? Are your actions hindering you from obeying other commands from Jesus?
4. **Read Matthew 8:5-10.** What similarities do Jesus and the Roman Centurion share? What stands out to you about the Centurion’s faith?
5. **Read John 8: 25-30.** Even Jesus placed Himself under the authority of God the Father. What do you think this says about the character of Jesus? How can we emulate this?
6. Jim said you don’t have to be a pastor or a “*spiritual superhero*” in order to share your faith—just be real. Be yourself and share your story. What do you like about your story? What don’t you like? What do you need from God in order to be confident in sharing your story or faith with somebody?
7. Once again, Jim had everyone write down the names of people in their lives who don’t follow Jesus. What’s at stake; risking to *go to war* for the the people you wrote down?

Challenge:

There are five weekends between now and Easter—five weekends to have a conversation with somebody about your faith or about coming to Flatirons for church on Easter. Be honest with yourself: What is it going to take for you to have a conversation with the people you wrote down or the people that came to mind? All this week (and in the weeks to come) take time to pray each day for God to give you the courage to have that conversation—asking God to create the opportunity.