



Walk as Jesus Walked, part ONE, April 18-21 Ray Vanderlaan, Volume 7

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV) ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Reminder of the original purposes of LC – more now than ever
- Herb sensing...
 1. “It is more important than ever to walk in step with the Spirit moment by moment.”
 2. Spiritual battles are the environment we live in and not as we expect.
 3. Prioritize being Jesus’ witnesses (Matt. 28, Acts 1), reaching your “one(s)” as salt and light AND praying and reaching to the lost, lonely and leaders.
 4. We live in a broken world, but even worse, much of the American church is broken.
Crossroads Church, Cincinnati, Ohio kicking the Bible on Super Bowl Sunday
Stronger Men’s Conference, Springfield, Missouri, opening with bare chested sword swallower who regularly performs in women’s and gay nightclubs as a pole dancer.
 5. Jesus’ grass-roots Church is the hope of the world, at war, all the time, in seemingly insignificant ways

Prep for Ray Vanderlaan teaching.

- Who was Elijah and why was he significant in God’s work?
James 5:16–18 (ESV)
- Followers of Christ depicted as Olympic type athletes, runners.
1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (ESV)
Hebrews 12:1–6 (ESV)

VIDEO Content

- The Passion of Elijah
1 Kings 19:14 (ESV) ¹⁴He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”
Matthew 16:13–14 (ESV) ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
- New Testament context: stadiums and passion of the games
- Competing to honor the King - the purpose of the games
Galatians 5:7 (ESV) ⁷You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
2 Timothy 4:7–8 (ESV) ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- Following Jesus as an Olympic race
 - † to declare to the world that Jesus is King
Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 - † in the game because Jesus called us, not because we deserve it.

† once in the game we are to run ALL OUT!

1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV) ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

† *“How do we dare DABBLE in the Christian life... as a part-time stroll in the park... how dare we give up... our run declares that Jesus alone is King! So RUN!! RUN!! RUN!!! to declare to the world that Jesus is King”*

† *“I don’t want to get to the end of my life and have to tell Jesus I didn’t give it all. I want to cross the finish line and tell Him ‘I have NOTHING LEFT!’”*

† *“This is a radical message in contemporary Christianity where we kind of crawl through our faith.”*

† Hearing the witnesses who have finished the race cheering us on...

† Being people who will someday BE the witnesses to cheer next generations on.

† Start NOW to run alongside others as greatest supporters, refusing to criticize

† *“The biggest barrier for someone being a true disciple, someone genuinely like Jesus, in the world that we live in is that it takes this kind of FIRE. That’s how Elijah is translated into the world of the Greeks.”*

Discussion and Application

➔ What most caught your attention and why?

➔ How do the images presented impact your idea of being a follower of Christ? of being a witness?

➔ What most caught your attention and why?

Takeaways...

Going Deeper – Elijah’s zeal in serving God

Laan, Ray Vander. *That the World May Know* Book 7 (p. 17). HarperChristian Resources. Kindle Edition.

1 Kings 17: 1-5; 7-10; 13-14; 17-24 What kind of a relationship did Elijah have with God?

How did God’s words — what God said to do — influence the prophet’s words and actions?

What impact did Elijah’s zeal have on others?

1 Kings 18:15-29 What do you notice about Elijah’s boldness in speaking to... King Ahab?
the people of Israel? the prophets of Baal?

What level of commitment would/ what motivated Elijah to be able to say these things?

1 Kings 18:30-40 How much physical effort did it take for Elijah to prepare the bull, build the altar, dig the trench? What does this tell you about his zeal for the Lord?

As you read Elijah’s prayer, what do you see as the consuming passion of his heart?

How much effort do you think it took to capture and execute the false prophets of Baal?

1 Kings 18:41-46 Where did Elijah go after the false prophets were killed?

What did he do when it started raining?

What does this tell you about the intensity of his passion and commitment to honor God?

1 Kings 19 What do Elijah’s actions tell us about zeal for God...

vs. 1-8, his response to the victory over the false prophets?

vs. 9-18, his conversation with God?

vs. 19-21, his obedience after all that had happened?



New Song
Community Church