



a special message for

SERMON NOTES

June 1, 2025

"A Commencement Address"

Matthew 5:14-16, 6:9-13, 19-21, 24, 7:13-14, 8:12;
Luke 12:15; Psalm 91:6, Proverbs 4:19

I. Overcoming Darkness

- A. As human beings, we were created to be _____ for the world.
- B. Usually the metaphor of _____ in the Bible refers to adversity, pain or difficult times.
- C. Your _____ is about more than a place of employment.
- D. We need to ask ourselves two questions that will help us be _____ in the world.
 - 1. What breaks my heart?
 - 2. What can I do about it?

II. Living in a Material World

- A. Jesus says 'life does not consist in an abundance of _____.'
- B. Jesus says 'You can't _____ both God and money.'
- C. One way to avoid serving our money instead of God is to live _____ our means.

III. The Narrow Road

- A. The world says take the easy path, Jesus says take the _____ path.
- B. *Discernment by Nausea* - Much of the time, the path that you are meant to take is the path that makes you a little _____ in your stomach.

IV. The Lord's Prayer

- A. The Lord's prayer teaches us to _____ 'my' with 'thy.'
- B. When we live into what God's calling us to do, we find _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 2-7, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

Every spring, Americas colleges line up commencement speakers for their graduations from the worlds of politics, entertainment, or sports. This year's speakers included President Trump, former vice presidential candidate Tim Walz, actor Steve Carell, musician Snoop Dogg, baseball hall-of-famer Derek Jeter, and Olympic champion swimmer Katie Ledecky to name a few. But what would Jesus would say if he were invited to give a commencement address to high school or college graduates?

Monday: Matthew 5:3-16

Jesus told his followers, "You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world." Rule-based morality too often brings gloom, criticism and fear. Have you known people whose warmhearted goodness adds flavor and light to life? How can your allegiance to Christ make you "salt and light," making your life, and the lives of others, brighter and better?

Tuesday: Matthew 5:20-24, 38-48

John Wesley, Methodism's founder, said Jesus called us to be "perfect in love," always growing toward loving with God's all-inclusive love. He rejected the idea that "perfect" meant never sinning (missing the mark). Does it challenge you more, or less, to think that being "complete" or "perfect" is about the state of your heart rather than just your outward actions?

Wednesday: Matthew 6:1-15

Here's a simple way to examine your motives, shared by Pastor John Ortberg in his book *The Life You've Always Wanted*: "Do something good and try to make sure no one finds out about it" (p. 168). Why not try that this week? Keep some notes (only for your eyes, and God's) about how it feels to increase your freedom from what Ortberg called "the narcotic of approval."

Thursday: Matthew 6:19-34

Jesus seemed to anticipate modern research when he said, "Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?" (verse 27) Actually, there is a great deal of research that shows that, if anything, worry shortens our lives. How can you distinguish needs from wants; and plan for the future without worrying about it?

Friday: Matthew 7:1-12

Taking responsibility for our own thoughts, emotions, words, and actions instead of blaming others can be difficult. Yet healthy, authentic, loving relationships depend on our ability to "take the log out of our own eye." What "log(s)" do you wrestle with? What are the issues that keep you from living as Jesus taught us? How can you more fully reflect God's grace to you in the way you relate to others?

MOVING FORWARD

from Pastor Eric:

If Jesus were giving a commencement address, I think he would focus on 4 truths from his teachings:

- 1) We are called to be light of the world.
- 2) Life does not consist of an abundance of possessions.
- 3) Take the narrow road in life.
- 4) Surrender your life to God.

And according to Jesus, if we can live out these truths, we will find life.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) light, B) darkness, C) life, D) light. IIA) possessions, IIB) serve, C) beneath. IIIA) hard, B) sick. IVA) replace, B) life