



# West Weekly Study Guide - October 16, 2011

## Defining Moments . . .

There are times in every person or organization's life that serve as defining moments. There are two ways you can engage in those moments . . . you define them or you allow them to define you.

We stand in the middle of a defining moment for West.

## Sermon Oct. 16

### "Get Real: Kindness

-Rev. Andrea Smith

## Scripture Reference:

*Things I'd like to remember from this weeks message:*

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On Friday evening over \$25,000 worth of equipment was stolen from the West Trailers. Certainly that was the last phone call I thought I would get on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon. . . and then I thought "this is a bizarre joke."

Quickly, however, I realized no one was joking.

A million different things ran through my head as I SLOWLY made my way to the Brawley Campus . . . of all times to get behind slow cars on Hwy 150. (I knew it was bad when the dump truck in front of me passed a car . . .)

And even though a million things ran through my head, the conclusion I reached was quick and certain . . . "It's just stuff! West is far more than any sound equipment, tvs, drums, etc. West is the people and the spirit that lives in and among us not just on Sunday morning but all throughout our journey together."

I also made the call that we will not be pulling trailers to West on Sunday to halfway put up the skeletal equipment that we have left. Nor would we be piece-mealing a sound system from all the various resources we have.

Today we will live a "defining moment."

The irony here is it seems the past month has been one of great soul searching for me in regard to West. The first birthday brought a time of discernment in my own soul and also a time of vision casting for the Vision Team. This, coupled with Lee's critical thinking questions like "What is your dream job in ministry? Where do you want to be someday that would be living the dream?" and "If the bishop were to come and tell you that you had to move, where would you want to go? All pastors have 'goals' of churches . . . what is yours?" (I accused him of wanting me gone but that was not the case . . . just honest questions as he has been privy to those conversations from other pastors over the years)

These questions caused me to spend more time thinking and praying than I have in awhile. They also prompted me to reach my own "defining moment."

This, West, is the dream.

It also is my dream . . . and what an honor to be a part of that dream with YOU! You all live out that dream each week . . . and not just on Sunday mornings!!! As long as I can be effective in ministry, I will vest my soul in the vision and mission of West. I don't care about "bigger appointments" nor do I care about "status" or "name." I care about making a difference in the lives of people and doing so in the name of Christ. And I care about doing it with the people that are sold out for the vision and mission of the church.

So . . . the take away from today is . . .

Thank God that West is SO MUCH MORE than some stuff in trailers.

Anger, frustration, justice, and vengeance . . . those things are not to be something we hold on to.

We celebrate that West is a church that isn't afraid to do things differently.

West is a church not hung up on semantics.

West is a church that loves people and always seeks to put that first . . . far before what is easy or popular to do! (Ie - No Huddles Days!)

It is my hope that you will be "vested" in West alongside the vision team and myself. God has GREAT things in store for BOTH campuses . . . and it is an honor and privilege to be a part of this journey with you!

## Prayer for Upcoming Week:

Gracious and Loving God,

You are one who sustains, guides, counsels, AND empowers! Help us to know that if we will live like you . . . Radically changed by the Savior then we will be able to make a difference. Word will get out and we will have an opportunity to soften the hearts of the critics . . . Mainly because we will show the world our hearts! And it is our desire that our hearts look like the heart of Christ.

Show us how to follow you . . .

Amen.

**Prayer Concerns:**

**Don Armstrong**

**Ugandan Mission Team**

**Team Traveling to "Change the World Conference"**

**Don't forget . . .**

- **Fallstown Baptist Mission - helping them serve the community**
- **College Student Care Ministry**
- **SuperHeros of Mooresville - Coming Soon . . . .**

**THURSDAY**

**10.20.11**

**Titus 3:4-5**

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love. -Lao Tzu

There are many ways to be kind . . . The bottom line, however, is when we are kind we look at the other person first rather than ourselves.

Think of a time in your life when someone's kindness created a sense of confidence in you. Who is someone you can show kindness to so they will be empowered in their gifts?

Another aspect of kindness is that kindness can be defined as the ability to recognize the needs of others and take steps to meet those needs. It is understanding and compassion.

Often times because we think and feel differently about circumstances we may not react as kindly as we should. We pass judgment and do not act on grace and mercy.

- **Confess the areas in your life in which you pass judgment and then ask God to help you err on grace rather than ego and pride.**

**FRIDAY**

**10.21.11**

**Luke 12:15**

"Life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you are." Well, guess what . . . A church is not made up of what you own either. Why is it that we equate value with "stuff?" We should focus on the things that have "kingdom significance." Things that at the end of the day, when it is all said and done, will matter. 10 years from now it will not matter at all that our trailers were broken into . . .but it will matter that lives were touched following worship by acts of kindness and love.

Those things are people and relationships. Not the things that we "own."

- **If you think about the people in your life that have kingdom significance, do you show them how valuable they are?**
- **What about those people who are difficult to relate to? How can you treat them so that you will show kingdom significance?**

**SATURDAY**

**10.22.11**

**Hebrews 10:24**

Rick Warren does a daily devotional and had a great one this week on what it means to be kind.

Warren shares that in order to build others up (aka—being kind) it requires great unselfishness. It's called "people-building" and we are called to be people builders throughout our lives.

This means not only the people that are easily loved but those who are difficult to love too!

- **Pick out that person in your life . . .**
- **Now, recognize that while the negative qualities may seem abundant, there are also great qualities as well.**
- **Find those great qualities by identifying their strengths?**
- **How can you encourage their strengths with your kindness?**