

Here to There

Everything Is Practice

AUGUST 14, 2022

How do you get to where you want to be? If you approach everything you do and everything you go through now as practice for what's coming down the road, you'll be prepared for whatever comes next.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- In the movie *The Karate Kid*, Daniel thinks he's just been doing chores for Mr. Miyagi, until Mr. Miyagi reveals it's all been practice for martial arts.
- Everything is practice.
- Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. | *Philippians 4, v.9*
- What you practice now will prepare you for what's coming later.
- So much of what we do and experience is practice for love.
- It's NOT so we can just climb the ladder of success, or achieve a certain status or tax bracket.
- If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. | *1 Corinthians 13, v.1*
- If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. | *1 Corinthians 13, v.2*
- If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. | *1 Corinthians 13, v.3*
- Wherever you end up going, you don't want to get there without love.
- Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. | *Proverbs 19, v.21*
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. | *1 Corinthians 13, v.4*
- We can take the qualities of love described in *1 Corinthians 13* and practice them.
- "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much..." | *Luke 16, v.10*
- You can't expect to be prepared for the big things if you refuse to practice the little things.
- If you approach everything as practice, you never know when God will pull a Mr. Miyagi, and take some little thing that you've practiced and turn it into something that you or someone else will need in a critical moment of your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's something you've practiced, and it has paid off? What's something you wished you practiced more, but didn't?
2. If we approach everything as practice, how might that change the way you approach how you do things or respond to situations throughout the day?
3. Ultimately, everything is practice for love. How have you seen God use experiences in your life to prepare you to love others better?
4. Read through the qualities of love in *1 Corinthians 13* (patient, kind, doesn't envy or boast, not proud, etc.). Which of those qualities do you most need to practice? What opportunities do you have to practice them?