**30th Anniversary – CP Teaching Manuscript - GOOD**

*Following the video from Dave and Jon…*

I am so grateful for all God has done at COMMUNITY for the past 30 years and here at our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ location for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. There is much to celebrate…about our church, about our location, and even about our own lives.

For just a minute, I want you to think back over your time as a part of our church family. Whether that time is measured in weeks and months –or- years and decades, **How has God worked in you and through you here at COMMUNITY?**

* Maybe you found your way back to God here.
* Maybe God has used you to help someone else find their way back.
* Maybe you’ve grown in your relationship with God.
* Maybe you’ve discovered your spiritual gifts.
* Maybe you’ve healed from some pretty deep wounds.
* Maybe you’ve formed lifelong friendships in this place.

*(Share something personal)* Make this more specific. “This is a place where I found community…name specific friends.” Or tell more details about why I’m fasting. I can look back and see so many ways God has worked in my life through this community, but I’ll share something recent. The 30 Days of Prayer and Fasting we did together in January has had a big impact on me. Maybe I should be farther along in this as a pastor, but fasting has never been something I’ve practiced regularly or gave much priority. But something happened in my heart during those 30 days. I sensed God wants to do something in me and through me connected to that practice. So I’ve continued to fast once or twice a week since, and I’m excited about how God is working in me.

What about you? How has God worked in your life here at COMMUNITY? We should celebrate that!

However, as we look back, I think we also need to look forward. We can’t look back on all that God has done and say, “That’s it! We’re finished!” No, it is good to celebrate where we’ve been, but our focus needs to be set ahead on where we are going.

After reflecting on all God had done in his life, the Apostle Paul says it this way:

**“I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. -Philippians 3:12-14 NLT**

Paul says we need to forget the past. That can actually be a good thing too, right? Maybe you’re here today and you think, “When I look back, all I see are all the mistakes I’ve made…all the ways I’m not who I want to be. I wish I could forget.”

If I look back, I see things I want to forget too. *(Funny picture of TP from 30 years ago)* That’s me 30 years ago. Who let me go out looking like that? Seriously, though, I have things in my past I’m not proud of. The Apostle Paul had things he was not proud of. And he tells us that all of it – the good, the bad, and *(point to your picture)* the ugly – forget it all. Where our eyes need to be, Paul says, is forward…to all that lies ahead.

*(Philippians 3:12-14 NLT)* Now, sometimes when people read this passage, they think that what Paul is focused on is heaven, the place we will go after we die. But that is not what Paul means when he tells us to focus on one thing. “Living in heaven” isn’t the goal Paul is aiming at, rather it’s living in the present in light of that future. He’s talking about living every day here on earth in light of ultimate realities. He’s talking about living every day with Jesus, for Jesus, and because of Jesus.

So what does it look like to move forward in that way?

*(“IN us and THROUGH us”)* For months we’ve been talking about how we sense God wants to do a new thing in us and through us.

* We set aside 30 Days of Prayer and Fasting in January asking God to show us what he wants to do in us and through us.
* We challenged one another during the “In God We Trust” series to let God do something new in us in the area of generosity so that God could do something new through us as we surrender to him.
* For the past three weeks we’ve talked about how the Holy Spirit longs to do a work of transformation in us and to display his power through us.

“In us and through us.”

Today, we want to continue to challenge one another to (**Forward: IN us**) let God do a new thing IN us. What might that look like for you moving forward? *(Add 3C Graphics)*

Instead of “maybe” make this more “What is your next step forward in…”

* Maybe it is a next step in your relationship with God, something we call “Celebrate” around here.
* Maybe it is a next step in your relationships with other Christ-followers, what we refer to as “Connect.”
* Maybe it is a next step in your relationship with the world, some way God wants you to “Contribute” your time, talents, and treasures.

Forget what is behind, ask God to show you what your next step is forward.

As each of us let’s God do a new thing IN us, ultimately, (**Forward: THROUGH us**) he will do a new thing THROUGH us. As we move forward, God will use us advance his mission. God will work through us to bring heaven to earth. He will give us more and more opportunities to see this happen…

**Video: Location Testimony**

*(Community logo with hpftwbtG)* Here at COMMUNITY, we’ve always been about one thing… helping people find their way back to God. God has blessed us abundantly over these past 30 years. We have much to celebrate.

But today, we also choose to forget what is past and move forward. Forward into all God wants to do in us and through us. Forward into all God has for us in the decades ahead.

Together with our eyes on Jesus, we step forward.

Communion prep – Back to Philippians 3 – Jesus has always had a grip on us, he will continue.