

***The Character Matrix, Erwin McManus***

Saturday, 9 – 10:30 am

**Books by Erwin McManus**

*Seizing Your Divine Moment*

*UPRISING: A Revolution of the Soul*

(Erwin is one of those speakers for whom taking notes is almost impossible. He is clearly a godly man who tremendous insight. The essential thing about his messages is the impact from the Spirit. Therefore, the following notes are way too inadequate. Get the message on tape and / or buy his books for a better understanding.)

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 13

Jere 2 You have forsaken Me

***I want to talk with you this morning about transformation.***

How is it that people change and that God uses to accelerates the process?

Promises – what God does.

Commands – what we are to do.

I discovered that I knew very little about how to help people change.

Drugs, sex, poor...how do we help people become better?

I discovered that no one seemed to be getting better.

Homeless family...seemed to become homeless over and again.

I helped them pay their rent 4-5 times. 5<sup>th</sup> time I couldn't. I went to their home and told them I couldn't help this time. She cursed me and threw me out.

Then, you know you have the stuff to help people change. Some get better. Some don't.

How did people get better even when I taught them the wrong thing.

Something inside the heart that allows them to get better even when what I teach could have been done better. And that allows them to hear the truth and not get better.;

***Healing comes by running toward God's commands and allowing Him to liberate them.***

When you are not a Ctn you can do anything you want. People are actually free when we step into a relationship with the living God. I run in the path of your commands because they set me free.

Adam and Eve. You can eat from any of them except one.

Unlimited permission to be gluttonous. But no, they have to eat of that one tree that is forbidden. What was the deal? What was the boundaries of this place? No boundaries. They were naked. Couldn't they discover anything else to do except eat from that tree?

Why didn't he just pick her up and say, hey, we are doing on a cruise in the love boat.

No, they had to hang around the tree because God is trying to limit my life.  
They didn't believe that prison was in their choice to move away from God and that freedom was in his presence.

How do we become free? What does it look like? The end product is to become like God. Here's a delimma.

When we come to Cx we are predestined to become like God. Which part of God are we pursuing? It's the "omni's" that we want – omni-powerful; all knowing; What we want about God he will not share with us. But what He offers us is so astonishing and yet so unattractive to us. He offers us His character! To be an expression of love and purity and mercy and

At the core of who God is He is a servant!  
We don't value being a servant! We have no category for "servanthood".

God loves and values the treasure of serving. He didn't mind meeting our needs.  
God doesn't need us. He delights in serving us.

When you come into a relationship with Him you and I become servants.  
The healing process comes in moving away from self toward being a servant.  
When you begin following Him there is only one destination – toward

#### 1. Quest for Nobility!

How do people become whole? I had to ask it for those I worked with and for myself.  
Not knowing my mother, separated from my father, raised by my grandmother.  
I found myself tormented by nightmares, flunking out of school, etc.

For me talking about how JC heals us is not theorethical.  
Most churches have no idea about how to help people get whole.  
We go to people who are already whole! When they come to our place broken.  
We look for that supernatural moment where people are made whole.  
I kept trying to help people get whole by meeting all their needs.  
But this doesn't help unless they are grateful for what you do.  
Have you ever invested your life into someone who always wanted more.  
Emotional bloodsuckers. They have to love me. JC commands it.  
They tell us how others have betrayed them. They suck out all the life in you.  
They are there all the time. And before they leave you they say, "You let me down"  
And then you see them and they are full! Then they see the next victim "counselor"

You have to wonder – Luke 7 Those who struggle with brokenness not only have a difficult time receiving love but also in giving it.

Luke 7:36-50

Not only not be able to give love but also to receive it.  
They've lost the capacity to experience love.

It is not in receiving your love and my love, it is in receiving the love of God that heals the soul. But also in giving love away!

To love another person is the pathway to wholeness!  
Woman crashes the party. She anoints JC feet.

She loves more because forgiven more. You love less because forgiven less.  
You've never sinned like she has. Or JC could mean – Simon, you just don't get it. You don't know how sinful you are and how much you've been forgiven. Gratitude produces wholeness and wholeness leads to generosity.

Integrity = If I can give 2% more than I get that's great.  
Marriage – looking for someone to meet our needs.

About an inside out compass for life. Without Christ we are just consumers.

Fruit Illustration:

Store to buy a banana. Banana experts. What are you holding in your hand? A banana peel but you are certain that inside is a banana. Taste it.

Everything God creates has integrity! What you see is what you get.

Watermelon – You buy a watermelon rind.  
Whatever God creates has integrity

Is that true for you?

Is what we express and look like on the outside the same on the inside.  
Are we inside out people?

You know how you discover what is on the inside?

How a person uses power.

Integrity is only developed through humility.

Numbers 12 – Moses was one of the most humble people on the face of the earth.

How many of us have processes that affirm humility rather than talent?

We are a top gun church culture!

Most of us in the church have not had to earn our way based on our character.

When we face the crises of our character we'd rather move somewhere else than to deal with the real character issues.

Joshua 1 Be strong and courageous

You pray for what you don't have.

Courage is the absence of self, not fear!

When you start living your life for something more important than yourself you will act without fear.

One day you will care about something more than you care about yourself.

It doesn't really matter what happens in our lives.  
The cause is more important.

I am not going to pray for your safety.  
I am going to pray that you become dangerous. So dangerous that when you enter the room the demons flee.

She cares more about telling me the truth than about dating me tomorrow.  
When you are willing to lay your own life and dreams down, JC, whatever needs to be done just do it.

When you pray for God's will you aren't praying for His will. You are praying about the outcome.  
God can do whatever He wants. The question is, will you allow Him to do that through you.

**Tennis ball illustration:**

Delimma between cause and affect – I don't know how this happened to me.

Foolish

Wisdom is just connecting the dots.

James 1 – consider it all joy when

God creates a clear connection between wisdom and faithfulness.  
Born out of a life of faithfulness in the small things and perseverance.  
The small things really do matter.

How often does God want to do something so significant but He couldn't because you have not been faithful in the small things.

The way to become like JC is the way of JC.

2 Quest for

3. Quest for Wholeness