

New TIME

The LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." Zech 4:10 NLT-SE

- **RECAP: New FOCUS**

- LUKE 8:22-25 ~ **"Let's cross to the other side"**
- **Jesus is taking weak things and strengthen them!** Our assignment hasn't changed. We are not abandoning what we've been doing to do something different. Everything we've learned as a people has prepared us to be where we are. Now, we are being given a new discipleship challenge, one we're not quite prepared for, but one that will help prepare us for where we are headed. Currently, ***we are getting into the boat, making ourselves ready to cross over.***
 - **Strengthening Individuals**
 - **Strengthening Families**
 - **Strengthening Congregations**

- **TONIGHT: New TIME**

- **The Bible:** ⁶ Then he said to me, "This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: ***It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit,*** says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ⁷ ***Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel's way;*** it will become a level plain before him! And when Zerubbabel sets the final stone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: 'May God bless it! May God bless it!'" ⁸ Then another message came to me from the LORD: ⁹ "Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and ***he will complete it.*** Then you will know that the LORD of Heaven's Armies has sent me. ¹⁰ ***Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.***" (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.) (Zech 4:6–10 NLT-SE)
- **Adjusting to Change...**We have been meeting on Sunday evenings for the past 22 years, using Sunday mornings to reach out to other congregations and build relationships as God has opened doors. We feel now is the time to make Evangel accessible to more people ***as we transition toward the new "Strengthening" focus.*** Moving to Sunday mornings is an important piece of that puzzle, allowing families to have their evenings together, especially families with children.
 - ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ ***I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak.*** But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes—feed them justice! (Ezek 34:15–16 NLT-SE)
- **Aligning with Our Assignment...**As we begin to look at new ways to express ourselves as a congregation, we will need to ***adjust the way we do ministry.*** One of those adjustments would be to take the time we have together when we gather and divide it into thirds; spending a third of our time in ***worship,***

a third teaching the **Word**, and a third **ministering** to each other and to the Lord. **The one thing that binds it all together is our determination to spend 100% of that time enjoying the Presence of God!**

- LOOK TO ME CONTINUALLY for help, comfort, and companionship. Because I am always by your side, the briefest glance can connect you with Me. When you look to Me for help, it flows freely from My Presence. This recognition of your need for Me, in small matters as well as in large ones, keeps you spiritually alive. *Young, Sarah (2012-10-09). **Jesus Calling: Enjoy Peace in His Presence** (p. 303). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.*
- **Addressing the Need...**As we seriously look at **how we are investing our time**, we should constantly be seeking insight and wisdom as to how we should engage with those in need. This focus on **meeting people's needs**, not just keeping the church doors open, will keep us fresh and involved in the amazing things God is doing all around us!
 - **Looking inside...**We cannot give what we have not received. **“Strengthened people strengthen people!”**
 - ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for **harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.** (1 Cor 12:23–25 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, **help the weak**, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to **be kind to each other (first)** and **to everyone else.** (1 Th 5:14–15 NIV)
 - **Looking outside...**
 - You have not **taken care of the weak**. You have not **tended the sick or bound up the injured**. You have not **gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost**. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty. (Ezek 34:4 NLT-SE)
 - Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means **caring for orphans and widows in their distress** and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (James 1:27 NLT-SE)
- **What changes can we expect at Evangel?**
 - **What we do...**Equal parts of worship, the Word, and personal ministry.
 - **When we do it...**What do you think? 10:00, 10:30, 11:00? One hour, two hours? Three hours?
 - **How we do it...**The more people involved, the better! Everyone should have an opportunity to give. Where do YOU fit?