

THE BIG IDEA: Being all in means not taking the way out.

The Take-Off

Finally, it's here. After months of praying and preparing, ENCOUNTER begins now.

4 days, 4 guest speakers, and what we believe could be a life-changing event for each one of you.

What I want to do this morning is give you 3 keys to allow you to get the most out of the next 4 nights.

We'll start with a truth found in 1 verse and end with a truth God dropped on me years ago in a place you would never guess.

Before we get there, let's take a peek at Matthew 13:44...

1. Buy the field

- a. A couple of things...
- b. The kingdom needs to be sought
- c. This man dug it up - he worked at it - and then he sold all he had IN HIS JOY to buy the field
- d. Don't expect this week to be easy, buying the field wasn't easy, it was costly
- e. Going hard after God's presence WILL cost us something; buy the field anyway
- f. **Don't choose convenience over cost**
- g. God isn't convenient' He's costly, and He's worth every penny

2. Strike the ground

- a. Our second key is found in an interesting story told in 2 Kings 13
- b. Elisha the prophet is dying, and a king who had done evil in God's eyes paid him a visit
- c. The prophet told the king to shoot an arrow out the window, and when he did, he was told that he would completely destroy his enemy (v. 17).
- d. But the prophet didn't stop.
- e. He told the king to take the rest of the arrows and strike the ground,
- f. It was an odd, open-ended command to a king who had just been told he had victory.
- g. The king responded half-heartedly, and went from total victory to partial victory in a blink.
- h. **Don't choose complacency over victory**
- i. I can hear some of you objecting: that's not fair! He never told him how many times to strike the ground!
- j. The king felt silly, the actions felt unnecessary, and so he chose complacency.
- k. He should have struck the ground until the prophet stopped him.
- l. Stay hungry, even in victory, and strike the ground.

3. Risk the spit

- a. The last key comes from a word the Lord gave me years ago in the oddest place I can think of.
- b. The Wonderbra story
- c. Mark 8:22-26
- d. People begged Jesus to heal the man
- e. Jesus led him away from the drama and then ... Jesus spit on him!
- f. Then, Jesus asked if he could see. If all he wanted was a temporary improvement, his answer would have been yes. Instead, he said, "kind of."
- g. I'm asking you to go after God's presence like this man
- h. To not be so ok with improvement that you stop short of change
- i. This man wanted to see so badly that he told Jesus no, and took a chance that Jesus might spit again
- j. This week, I'm asking you to risk the spit
- k. **Don't choose appearance over actual**

The Landing

The Big Idea for Encounter is this: being all in means not taking the way out.

Coach Barnett @ Wingate: "Dont pace yourself. If you want it bad enough, it'll be there in the end."

Let's pray.