

September 7, 2025
Sermon Notes: Just a Jangling

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Football analogy to open with optimism/disappointment.
- 1.2 Leadership has always been difficult, Timothy faced challenges too.
- 1.3 Discipleship and leadership go hand-in-hand: teaching as we grow in Christ.

2. The Aim of Instruction: Love

- 2.1. Love is central to discipleship, agape love, not sentimental love.
- 2.2. Experienced first through Jesus and His unconditional sacrifice.
- 2.3. Goal of teaching: love flowing from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith (1 Tim. 1:5).
- 2.4. God cares more about inner health than outward religious activity.

3. Consistency in Love

- 3.1. Love is difficult to fake, empowered by the Spirit.
- 3.2. Love is the strongest quality when rooted in Christ.
- 3.3. Missed aim results in fruitless discussion or “vain jangling” (1 Tim. 1:6).
- 3.4. Leaders must ask: Does my life clear the path to Jesus or obscure it?

4. False Teaching and Sound Doctrine

- 4.1. False teachers in Ephesus pursued myths, genealogies, and superior knowledge.
- 4.2. Early seeds of Gnosticism sought to minimize Jesus’ divinity and work.
- 4.3. Sound doctrine centers on who Jesus is, what He has done, and our response.
- 4.4. Jesus declared unity with the Father, eternal life, and secure salvation (John 10:27-30).

5. The Law and Its Purpose

- 5.1. The law is good when used properly, it reveals God’s holy standard.
- 5.2. The law shows humanity’s need for a Savior, not a way to earn salvation.
- 5.3. Jesus fulfilled the law and offers righteousness by faith (Gal. 3:24-26).
- 5.4. Holiness remains the standard, now fulfilled in Christ.
- 5.5. The greatest commandments, love God, love others, summarize the law (Matt. 22:37-40).

6. Examples of Lawbreaking

- 6.1. Paul lists sins reflecting violations of the Ten Commandments (1 Tim. 1:9-10).
- 6.2. The law applies differently for those in Christ vs. those outside Christ.
- 6.3. All people fall short and need Christ’s righteousness.

7. The Gospel's Hope

- 7.1. The gospel is Jesus-centered, not human-centered.
- 7.2. All are sinners in need of grace.
- 7.3. Paul himself acknowledged being the "worst of sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15-16).
- 7.4. Christ's mercy and patience serve as an example for others.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. Leadership legacy, will it be fruitless jangling or love in action?
- 8.2. Jesus has done everything for salvation; we humbly accept it.
- 8.3. Leaders are called to clear the path to Jesus by living transformed lives.
- 8.4. Final call: pursue sound doctrine, lead others to Jesus, and leave a legacy of love.