

*On the* S·E·T  
*and being* A·P·A·R·T

*Because being a part  
Sets us apart*

Alive Ministries  
Student Conference  
December 29-31, 2013

## ACT 1

(Setting: Outside the Drama classroom after the final bell of the day. Curtain rises....)

Mikayla: Gabe, you just have to sign up for SBT next week. It's going to be a blast! And today is the deadline.

Gabe: Heeelllll-ooo, I just moved here last week, remember? I don't even know what SBT is.

Mikayla: SBT stands for Spring Break Theater. We spend all week here at school rehearsing and doing all the stuff to put on a play at the end of the week.

Gabe: But I don't know anything about theater or acting.

Mikayla: Aww, you'll be a natural. And hey, everyone will help you learn your way around the stage.

Gabe: So we're up here at school working, separated from all the rest of our friends, for the whole spring break?

Mikayla: Well, no, because some of our friends will be *here*, too. But yeah, pulling ourselves away from outside distractions is what it takes to do a good job in the short time we have.

Gabe: This is insane..., but okay, I'll do it!

(Curtain closes.)

-----

*“Come out from among [the world] and be separate from them,”* God tells those who've joined His troupe (2Cor 6:17). But what does being separate from the world mean?

Some say that it means God expects us to wear outdated clothes, drive a horse-and-buggy, or something else weird just so we look “different” on the outside. But that's not what God is focused upon here. Instead, He wants us to get away from those things that distract or sway us from doing a good job in being all that He wants us to be.

What are some things that can get in the way of doing a good job for God? There are at least three questions that come from 2Cor 6 that will help us answer that:

*“What are you passionate about?”* – i.e., what do you have deep feelings about? Paul said that he had affectionate feelings toward his fellow Christians – that his heart was wide open to them. And he said all Christians should feel that way (v11-13). What do you have strong feelings for? Is it for things that focus on you? Or do you open your heart’s affection for all Christians and what is best for them?

*“Who are you partners with?”* (v14) “Unequally yoked” describes the teaming or pairing up of a “clean” animal and an “unclean” animal – something God told the Old Testament Jews to not do. But it was given so that *we* would know to be careful who we team-up with. Are you as a saved person partners with an unsaved person? Oh, this isn’t talking about being lab partners or being on the same athletic team. This is talking about more serious partnerships, like who you’re dating, who you’ll marry, and who you’ll one day be business partners with. Do you have partnerships that you need to get out of?

*“What do you pick?”* (v17b) Question: What is the difference between a beagle and a booger? Answer: If you don’t know, then I’m not sending *you* to pick out my next puppy! <ha> Paul says not to pick (“touch”) the sinful things. We have to be careful what we pick to invest our time and thoughts into. Are there things that you’ve “picked” that you need to get rid of?

So, are you “set apart” or separated from the things that will get in the way of being the Christian God wants you to be? Do your passions, your partners, or the things that you pick pull you away from Him and His will? If so, then you’re not as separated from the world as you should be. Ask God to forgive you and commit to being set apart for Him.

-----

## ACT 2

*(Setting: First morning of SBT; Mr. Price, the play director, stands on stage about to speak to the students. Curtain rises....)*

Gabe: Mikayla, tell me again why I'm at school at 7:00 AM on the first day of spring break while everyone else is still in bed.

Mikayla: Shh! Mr. Price is about to start.

Mr. Price: Good morning, everyone. I am so glad that you have given up your week to be a part of Spring Break Theater. And I hope that when the week is over you'll think that it was worth all the work that you'll put into this project.

This is my sixth year to direct SBT. And one thing that I've learned is that it's all about attitude – much of our success or failure this week will be determined by our attitudes. This is going to be a long, hard week, and there will be a lot of work for each of us to do. But if we put our hearts into it, there will be the sense of reward that comes from working hard for something that we like to do, and something that we can be proud of when the job is done. And each one of us decides what we will focus on – the positive, or the negative. If we focus on the negative it's going to make the week even harder than it has to be, and it will make the final product mediocre. If we focus on the positive and work hard to achieve the goal, that will make the work easier. And our positive attitudes will help each other make it through, too.

So, right now – at this very minute – I am choosing to take the positive route. How many of you will do that too?

*(Curtain closes as hands are being raised.)*

-----

It's all about attitude – that's true of many things in life. Oh, we're not talking about whether you're an optimist or a pessimist – it's about far more important attitudes. Here are just a few of them for you to think about:

*Humility:* Humility is not about walking around with our head hung down muttering terrible things about ourselves, nor is it looking and feeling like a failure. It is recognizing that we mess up, that we don't know everything, and we don't always have the right answer. And when we accept that about ourselves, then it's easier to see God for who He really is, and how He's far more qualified to know what we should do and be than we are.

*Longsuffering:* Yep, this means pretty much what it sounds like. The word was used to describe an animal that would keep on going as he carried a heavy load for a long way. It means that when life gets hard we still stick to the job that God has for us.

*Gentle:* Okay, here's a word that probably doesn't mean what we first think. It's not about being sissy, nor is it the opposite of being strong. Instead, it means that a person keeps his or her strength and strong feelings (like anger) under control.

*Respect:* That's the R-E-S-P-E-C-T the old songs talks about. But the song got the idea backwards. Proper respect is not about us focusing on the value that others should be giving to us, but about what we should give to others. (This especially applies to our attitudes toward parents and other leaders.) But don't be fooled, it's not all about what *they* get out of it, but what *we* get out of it as well. Do you want to feel valued by your parents? If so, then value (respect) them. Here's how the general rule works:

My parents' value of me	x	The value I give my parents' opinion	=	How valued I feel by my parents
----------------------------	---	---	---	---------------------------------------

Increasing the respect or value you feel towards your parents and their opinions increases how valued you feel. The same applies to your teachers and other leaders.

So how are you doing on your attitudes? Are there any that you need to talk over with God and change?

-----

### ACT 3

*(Setting: Same as Act 2. Curtain rises....)*

Mr. Price: Okay students, here are the scripts for this week's play. We will be performing Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliette*. In a moment I will pass these out, and you will have the rest of the morning to read over and practice your lines. Find a partner to read along with you, if you like.

But first I must explain one rule about SBT that begins when you get your script: To help you to get the feel of your part as quickly and thoroughly as possible, for the rest of the week whenever you are in this auditorium you must speak and act *in character*. And after you get your script, go to wardrobe where you will be given a costume that you will also wear all week to help you think and act in character.

And now with the passing out of the scripts, your new character begins. Layla, thou shalt be Juliette. Devin, Devin, whereforth art thou, Devin? Thou art Romeo. And Gabe, thy part is Friar Laurence; and Taylor....

*(Mr. Price continues to pass out parts. Devin slips in beside Gabe.)*

Devin: *(to Gabe)* Hark, this is thy first play and thou hast been given the role of the good friar. Thou hast done well.

Gabe: 'Tis nothing, my son Romeo, 'tis nothing. But alas, thou art the one who hast achieved this lead role. How cooleth is that?!

Devin: "Cooleth?!" Art thou serious?

Gabe: Givest thou me a break; I greweth not up in Shakespearean times, foresooth.

Devin: Whatsoeverith. Shalt we depart unto wardrobe?

Gabe: Yeseth, indeed, even though parting is such sweet sorrow.

*(Devin rolls his eyes and both exit stage right. Curtain closes.)*

-----

What performers say and wear – these are two things that really show their character. This is even more true for Christians living in the real world.

Think about the words that you've said today. Think about what you said over the past week or two. What did the words and tone you used say about your character as a Christian when you got mad, or disappointed, or irritated? Remember, what we say is just a reflection of what we think and feel inside.

Now think about the clothes that you have and that you wear. Do any of them have a message that doesn't match with your role as a Christian? Do you wear clothes that reveal too much or that are so tight that they draw the wrong type of attention? What does that say about your character as a Christian?

Like actors in a play, Christians should look and speak in ways that match their character. But unlike the actors, we are not just pretending to be something that we are not. If we let God work inside us like we should, we will speak and dress in ways that match the role He has given us.

-----

#### ACT 4

*(Setting: Auditorium on Tuesday. SBT practice has stopped for lunch break. Curtain rises....)*

Gabe: Forthwith, my fair maiden. Enjoyest thou the SBT?

Mikayla: Oh, putteth a socketh in it.

*(Mikayla grabs Gabe by the arm and drags him out the side door.)*

Mikayla: Let's go somewhere and get some lunch.

Gabe: Not dresseth like this!

Mikayla: Enough with the old English already. Mr. Price said we only have to be in character when we're in the auditorium.

Gabe: Okay, okay. What's got you all bothered anyway?

Mikayla: It shows, huh?

Gabe: (*Sarcastically*) Does Juliette do a balcony scene?

Mikayla: (*Glaringly*) Grrr!

Gabe: Ahhh! So that's it. You're upset because you didn't get the part you wanted.

Mikayla: *The* part I wanted?! I didn't get a speaking part at all! And that's all that I've wanted since last year, and the year before that. Why can't I have a part?

Gabe: You *do* have a part.

Mikayla: Yeah, right. Like slapping some paint on the props and working on the costumes and helping with makeup is *a part*.

Gabe: Yeah, it *is* a part. If the show was only about saying a memorized script we would all just line up on stage and quote what we've learned. But even I know that theater is much more than that. It's about making the made-up feel real to those who are watching. And without proper props and costumes and all, it wouldn't be as believable. Hey, I can totally understand that you want a speaking part. But don't let that desire blind you to how important your present role is. Without your part we would only look like a bunch of high school kids reciting lines.

(*Curtain closes.*)

-----

It's been said that that most anything that can be used for great good can also be used for the same degree of evil. Money can be used to buy food for the hungry, or drugs for the addict. Guns can be used to protect from those that want to harm us, or used by those that want to harm us.

Desire is the same way – it can be used in good ways and in bad ways. Desire can motivate us to do well in school or in our jobs if our desire is focused on those things. But desire can hurt our school or job work if we constantly focus on wanting to do something else.

There are two things that we need to be sure are right before we should allow ourselves to dwell on a desire. Without both of these, it's best to just make our mind move along to something else. Ask yourself these two questions:

*Is it the right thing to desire?* God provides a lot of things that are fine for us to desire; and there are a lot of things that He says we shouldn't desire. Is the thing or the person that catches your attention something that God says is acceptable?

*Is it the right timing for the desire?* Most of us look forward to the day when we have someone special "to have and to hold" – that's a good desire. But for most students still in school, it just isn't the right time yet. And if it's not the right time, then it's best to not allow your heart to sit and long for it. Like Mikayla, sometimes we set our desires upon one thing we don't have and become blind to all the good stuff where we are right now.

The desire that you feed (i.e., that you regularly long for) is the desire that will grow. One of the best ways to get past a bad desire is to find a good desire to shift your attention to.

And remember, while you can't choose what you will be tempted by, you are the only one that decides what you will desire.

-----

### ACT 5

*(Setting: Auditorium on the night of the play performance. Brayden, as the Prince, is giving his last lines. Curtain rises....)*

Brayden: ...For never was a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

*(Stage curtain closes. Applause comes from the auditorium. All cast and other SBT members line up on stage and bow to the standing ovation.)*

Gabe: Mikayla, that was such a rush! Wow! I am so glad that you talked me into doing Spring Break Theater! Go ahead and say it.

Mikayla: Say what?

Gabe: Oh, go ahead and say, “I told you so.”

Mikayla: I told you so!

Gabe: So, are you still upset about not getting a speaking part?

Mikayla: Yeah, a little, I guess. But you were right, it’s best to be where the director decides to best use you. And the important thing is to just be a part. And I wouldn’t have missed that for the world.

Gabe: Hey, all the hard work is over, we did a great job..., and now it’s time to celebrate. Cast party is over in the drama classroom – you coming?

Mikayla: You bet.

*(Curtain closes.)*

-----

Like the students working through SBT week, sometimes Christians feel like the time that we are set apart to do our job here on earth is taking forever. But the day will come when we stand before God to give our final presentation, and once that is over we will have all of eternity to celebrate

When that final presentation comes, there will be three kinds of people that stand before God. There will be the saved who have set themselves apart – i.e., they got the stuff out of their lives that stood in the way of being all that God wanted. To these He will say, “Great job” – like He was giving them a standing ovation. The second type of people will be the saved that didn’t fully commit to the task of being a Christian, and they will have little for God to be pleased with. If you’re in this second group, why not commit right now to take on the role God has for you and do a good job with it?

The third group is the saddest of them all. It will be to these people that God says, “Leave me,” and then they will have to

spend eternity in hell. It sounds cruel, but the truth is God only rejects them because they have spent their lives rejecting His offer to save them from this place.

If you feel God nudging you to become a Christian, here's what you need to do:

A – Admit (to yourself and to God) that you have done things that the Bible says are wrong (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

B – Believe what the Bible tells us about Jesus. That means that you genuinely believe that Jesus was the Son of God and that He died on the cross so that you can be forgiven of the things you've done wrong.

C – Commit. Pray to God, and if you really mean it then ask Him to forgive your sins, commit your heart and life to Him, and ask Jesus to save you.

If God has stirred your heart to be saved and if you have truly believed these things and prayed to God committing your life to Him, then here is God's promise to you: "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

If you made this commitment, then as a new Christian you need to talk regularly with God in prayer, and you need to read your Bible to hear what God has to say to you. You need to go regularly to a good, Bible-teaching church. You also need to talk to your pastor about being baptized.

-----

*Hi, my name is Don Burke. I am a pastor and I wrote these devotional thoughts. If you have made the decision to accept Jesus as your Savior while reading these devotionals or during the ALIVE conference this year, I would love to hear from you. You can share your good news with me at [PotosiPastor@gmail.com](mailto:PotosiPastor@gmail.com).*