TRY HARD SERIES

WEEK 2

Wear the Label

Opening Scripture: Colossians 3:23–24

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Last week we left Jacob limping out of a fight with a new name.

This week I want to talk about what you do *after* the river—when you go back to school, the team, the group chat, and they still call you a try-hard.

Paul said it plain: whatever you do—homework, practice, serving, being kind when it's expensive—**do it from the soul**, as unto the Lord, not unto men.

That verse is how you survive the nickname.

Because if your audience is the lunch table, you will always shrink.

If your audience is Jesus, you can afford to look extra.

You don't work hard because of an applause.

Let me show you what "all your heart" looks like in the Bible. These people would have been roasted in a hallway.

David.

The whole army had a strategy: stay behind the line and talk about how big the giant is. David ran *at* Goliath. That's not calculated. That's a try-hard with a sling and a conviction.

That's not what the crowd wants you to do. Stay back here with us and hide behind the rocks.

The woman with the alabaster box.

She broke something expensive and poured it on Jesus. The room said, "Why this waste?" Jesus said, "She hath done a beautiful thing."

You need to hear that!

The same act can be "waste" in the mouth of people and "beautiful" in the mouth of Jesus.

You will have to decide whose reviews you hear.

The four friends who tore the roof.

The house was full. The official answer was "no room." They made a mess to get one paralyzed man to Jesus. That's try hard. That's what it looks like when you refuse to accept "that's just how it is" for somebody God wants to touch.

The widow and two mites.

She didn't give extra from overflow. She gave *all*. Jesus didn't measure the amount. He measured the heart. Some of you think "all your heart" means being the most talented person in the room. No. It means not holding back the little you've got.

#1. Who you work for changes how you work.

If you are working for them, their mockery will manage you.

If you are working for Him, their mockery becomes background noise.

Paul said you already have a Master in heaven. Stop applying for a new one every period.

#2. The label is coming either way.

They will call you try-hard or they will call you lukewarm.

Only one of those names shows up in Scripture as a warning.

I'd rather be mocked for fire than complimented for being normal.

Anything but average

Sermon on the mount is all about being above average

#3. The reward is not in the room.

"Ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance."

The hallway does not cut the check.

The group chat does not write the last chapter.

You serve the Lord Christ—so do the assignment, run the play, tell the truth, include the left-out kid, stay kind, stay excellent, stay in the wrestle—**from the soul**.

I came to tell the student who's been shrinking:

You don’t have to dim down to be discipled.

You don’t have to fake boredom to belong.

You don’t have to treat respect like a personality flaw.

Being all-in is not arrogance.

Half-hearted is not humility.

Jesus sweat like blood and still said, “Not my will.” Then He finished.

If anybody ever earned the right to coast, it was Him. He didn’t.

So wear the label.

Not as a brand. As a decision.

Whatever you do this week, do it heartily.

Not because they’re watching.

Because He is.

And the One who renamed Jacob is still in the business of giving new names to people who refuse to let go.