

MONDAY 5.2.22 – MATTHEW 5:13-16

“Searching for my long lost shaker of salt” is a lyric from a popular Jimmy Buffet tune. I never felt much of a spiritual connection to this song but after reading today’s scripture, I could think of nothing else. We all search for a little “spice” in our lives, right? But, in what pantry do we look? Do we focus on our earthly surroundings, or do we look to God? What about our friends and family? Where are they searching?

The Message version of Matthew 5:13 says this: “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?” Let us do our best to remain pure and not dilute our saltiness with things of this world. Let us pray continuously and read our Bible often to keep our seasoning fresh and strong so that we may help to season those around us. Stay salty, my friends!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 5.3.22 – PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Our call to sacrificially submit ourselves to others does not begin with our sacrifice, but with God's blessings. The actual grammatical construction of this statement is more accurately translated when all the "if"s changed to "since"s! We are called to unity in spirit and purpose after having received all these blessings from being in Jesus! We are encouraged by being united with Christ. We are comforted by His love. We do share in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We have received tenderness and compassion. So how can we not share those with our Christian family and find a way to live together in His Kingdom in harmony?

PRAYER: Holy and righteous Father, you have blessed me so richly in Jesus. Open my eyes to see how those around me in my spiritual family need to receive those same blessings from me. In the name of Jesus, and because of the grace He has lavished upon me, I pray with thanksgiving in my heart. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 5.4.22 – ACTS 6:1-7

Much of a pastor’s time is invested in giving attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). As your pastor prepares a message from the Bible to share each week, you can assist him through your prayers.

What should you pray?

- Mental Comprehension—that he would understand God’s Word—1 Corinthians 2:9-16
- Strong Conviction—that God’s message would grip his heart—1 Thessalonians 1:5
- Effective Communication—that he would clearly and correctly convey God’s message in the power of the Spirit –1 Thessalonians 1:5
- Spiritual Transformation—that the Spirit of God will use the message to produce proper response and change—2 Corinthians 3:18
- God’s Glorification—that the message will accomplish God’s purpose for His honor—1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 5.5.22 – DEUTERONOMY 6:5

Every one of us has a code by which we live our lives. For some, it’s the desire to grab as much of life as it has to offer. For others, it’s the pursuit of a dream or goal. For some, it’s prioritizing family above all else. For others, it’s a desire to

influence and change the world. One day, someone asked Jesus what the greatest command of all was and He replied by quoting from today’s verse. When we love God with all that we are, everything else falls into proper perspective and balance. To love God is to follow His ways and to embrace His character. Love for God, in turn, enables us to love others in a truly selfless way that makes all the difference. Let’s embrace the highest command of all and love God the way that He loves us: with all our heart and without hesitation. May we love one another the same way!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 5.6.22 – PSALM 111

THE ONE WE MUST RESEMBLE. Psalm 111 describes God and Psalm 112 how His people come to resemble their God. We were made in His “image” (Genesis 1:27). That means we were made to relate to Him and reflect back to Him His own character. So who is this God we should be like? God is a worker who makes things (verse 2). He is righteous (verse 3), compassionate (verses 4-5), and a God of truth (verses 7-8.) Finally, He is a God of integrity, who keeps His promises (verse 9). We will become like this not simply by obeying His rules (as important as that is) but through “the fear of the LORD” (verse 10), worshipping Him with awe. We become like the things we love most.

PRAYER: Lord, I may say my prayers and obey your commands, but it is true worship and adoration that will actually change me. Don’t let me settle for the shallows of mere religious compliance. Fill me with the joyful fear that comes as we seek your face. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40AM*

Kids CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
*available during 9:40 **AND** 11:00 services

NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service

Youth YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

Adults EXPLORE THE BIBLE – Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
1 and 2 Thessalonians with Jim Kline
MASTERWORK – Room B11 (Lower Level)
"Absolute Surrender" with Jack Devlin (4.17–5.29)
PERSON OF INTEREST – Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Steven Miller

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

Kids KID'S CLUB (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level
CURRENT SERIES: Messiah's Kids – Answers for Kids

Youth YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs

Adults DIVE DEEP WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center
CURRENT SERIES: **Exodus**

BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S)
LOCATION: Room B8-10 (Lower Level)
Group discussion following the scriptures and themes of Sunday morning's message. Jump in any time as we go through the Book of ACTS together.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 6:30PM

THE POWER OF KNOWING GOD (beginning May 4th)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

WOMEN'S STUDY – THURSDAYS at 9:00aM

JESUS & WOMEN (April 21 – June 2)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES,
PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

SERMON NOTES

ACTS 5:12-42

Believers face waves of opposition from an unbelieving world.

1. The Wave of _____ (vv 17-24)

The apostles were released from jail by an angel, but the angel rescued them for a purpose. They were to go to the temple and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to others.

*"Go, stand in the temple courts and _____
the people the full message of this new life."*

2. The Wave of _____ (vv 25-32)

The apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin—the high court of the nation of Israel. They were told not to teach about Jesus.

*"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must _____
God rather than men!'"*

- Am I living consistently in view of what I know about Jesus?
- Am I living a life that's in line with what the Word reveals?
- Am I refusing to do what I know He wants?
- Am I refusing to share my faith because of fear of rejection or appearing unintelligent or uncultured or any other reason?

3. The Wave of _____ (vv 33-42)

The Sanhedrin wanted to kill the apostles, but they listened to Gamaliel's advice and spared their lives. However, they didn't simply let the apostles go. They had them whipped.


"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, _____ because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name."

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day
TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



May 2nd – 6th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip () every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on today's message in Acts 5. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in the book of Acts next Sunday as we look at Steadfastness in Priorities in Acts 6.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

"Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

–ACTS 4:11-12