

**MONDAY 6.13.22 – John 15:12**

We find it easy to love those who mean the most to us. Our family, friends, and church may receive their doses of love from us. But, what about those not as close to us? What about strangers? What about enemies? God doesn't ask; he COMMANDS us to love those we encounter. As we follow Peter's travels through the Book of Acts, we see him love on all sorts of people. To some, it would make sense for Peter to heal Dorcas as "she was always doing good and helping the poor." But Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, is not singled out for his works. Health aside, no mention is made of his past at all. Peter simply heals him with no questions asked. By that action alone all those who lived in the area saw him and turned to the Lord. God's love is available to ALL. We are commanded to follow suit.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**TUESDAY 6.14.22 – JAMES 1:23-24**

Out of this text comes an important application. James points out the powerful tool that a mirror is and the foolishness it is to ignore what it shows. Believers should be using God's Word as their mirror. As a mirror, allow it to reflect an image of who you truly are. When it shows you your gifts, use them. When it shows you what you are doing wrong, recognize and change it. When it shows how you can live in the power of Christ, live in it. The Word should be a tool for you to use to examine your life, but it must be done truthfully. One cannot examine themselves in God's Word and then not respond. Let your time of daily devotion be an opportunity to do just that, let it be a time of examining yourselves in the mirror of God's Word.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**WEDNESDAY 6.15.22 – ACTS 10:1-48**

In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi shared that in his student days in England, he was deeply touched by reading the Gospels, and he seriously considered converting to Christianity. Christianity seemed to offer the solution to the caste system that divided his home country of India. One Sunday, he decided to attend church services and to ask the minister for enlightenment on salvation and other doctrines. When Gandhi entered the sanctuary, the ushers refused to seat him, and they suggested that Gandhi worship with "his own people." He left and never came back. Gandhi wrote: "If Christians have caste differences also, I might as well remain a Hindu."

In Acts 10, God reveals to Peter the sin of prejudice. Peter learns that God accepts all people on the basis of His grace, and He offers them forgiveness of sin and eternal life through faith in His Son, Jesus.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**THURSDAY 6.16.22 – ISAIAH 66:2**

Now our ears should immediately perk up when we hear God say, "This is the one to whom I will look." Who is God looking for? And the answer is, two things, he who is humble and contrite (repentant) in spirit. So, humility, contrition before God, and number two, and trembles at my word. When you hear the word of God, there's a sense of awe, reverence, and trembling.

This is God's word, and so we can receive as from Him and not from man. When we open the Bible, God is speaking. And so we tremble before it, because of who is speaking. And

because we know there's a weight that comes with it. That we are accountable for obeying it. So, this is who God is looking for. This is what God is looking for in our lives, and so, let's pray together that these characteristics would mark us today.

PRAYER: God, we pray for Isaiah 66:2 to mark Your church. May it be said of us, in the end, by Your grace we were humble and contrite in spirit, and we trembled at Your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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**FRIDAY 6.17.22 – PSALM 118:19-29**

OPEN THE GATES/THIS IS THE DAY. The nation's leaders rejected the psalmist as builders discard a useless stone. But God made him a cornerstone (verse 22). When he came to the temple's gates, where only the righteous might pass (verses 19-20), he was welcomed up to the horns of the altar (verse 27).<sup>123</sup> Later Jesus came to Jerusalem to the shouts of Psalm 118:26: "Blessed is he who comes." He too was rejected by the leaders and went to the altar, but as a sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:10; Hebrews 9:12), making us righteous so we can go in to God (Hebrews 10:22). When we pray, the "gates of the righteous" are opened. Through His sacrifice we have access to the Father by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).

Because of Jesus, His victory over sin and death, we can always rejoice in the day the Lord has given us, no matter what.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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## 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 Kings with Lane Kemler*
- MASTERWORK—Room B11 (Lower Level)  
*"Pray Big" with Carl Hosler*
- POWER OF KNOWING GOD—Room B1-2 (Lower Level)  
*with Gene Steinruck*

### SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)  
LOCATION: Kid's Wing on the Lower Level  
CURRENT SERIES: 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)

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

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: CHANGE: Four Spiritual Shifts from Acts 9–11

SERMON: "Healing Touch" (Change In Actions)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:32-43

What kind of life does God want you to live?

God wants you to live a life of ...

### 1. M \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 32-34)

- EPHESIANS 2:8-10

*"A recent study found those who volunteer live longer than those who don't volunteer. Another study found a 44% reduction in early death among those who volunteered a lot—a greater effect than exercising four times a week."*

*~ Dr. Stephen Post*

### 2. H \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 34-35)

- 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12
- 1 PETER 5:5-6

*When you think you can stand by your own power—you're in danger. When you depend on yourself, you get what you can do. When you depend on Christ, you get what Christ can do.*

### 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 36-39)

*God isn't expecting you to overcommit and to burn out. However, He does expect you to use your giftedness to serve others for His glory.*

### 4. D \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 39-43)

- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7


*When I don't pray, I'm relying on my own strength, but when I do pray, I'm relying on God's strength.*

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



## June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 17<sup>th</sup>

### 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 from Acts 9:1-31 and our first shift in our series CHANGE. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we look at the second shift in Acts 9:32-43.

### KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

—ACTS 10:43