

MONDAY 6.20.22 – LUKE 12:22-26

After College I worked in community mental health which tends to be a very anti-Christian environment. Once in a group therapy session I was asked “who is the most important person in your life”? My answer, Jesus Christ. The other staff were appalled that I would say that, and it was not long until I was called into my boss’s office and told I was to never say that again. To which my response was, “if someone asks me, who is the most important person in your life, my answer is going to be Jesus Christ. If this is unacceptable then I am going to need to resign my position. Fortunately, I was not asked to leave, but I can honestly say that I never compromised my beliefs. How about you? Are you ready to stand up for Christ regardless of the cost?”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 6.21.22 – PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, yes? In doing so we do our best to become more Christ-like in our earthly lives. It is a daunting endeavor for sure. But it is something we strive for with each prayer, every Bible verse memorized, every church service attended. Trying to be more Christ-like should not only shape our inward-facing church congregation, but the relationship we have with our community and the world around us. While some may be saddened by the shrinking impact Christianity has in today’s world, Paul calls us to let go of our quest for more earthly power, make ourselves nothing, and take on the role of servant. Power struggles over inconsequential things in our daily lives and striving for glory do not honor the name of Jesus.

By striving to be more Christ-like: loving all, humbly serving the less privileged, refusing to conform to this broken world, we honor “the name that is above every name.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 6.22.22 – ACTS 11:1-30

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

Dr. Harry Ironside was Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago for 18 years. He once handed a gospel booklet to a man on a train. The man turned to him and asked, “Why did you give me this?” Ironside answered, “I thought you might be interested; and, may I ask, are you a Christian?” The man replied indignantly, “Well, take a good look at me—do I look like a Jew?” Ironside said, “You look like an American.” The man responded, “Then that is your answer!” The man believed that he was a Christian because he was born in the United States. However, a person’s country or culture doesn’t make him a Christian. A Christian is one who has placed his faith alone in Christ alone for forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

May I ask, are you a Christian?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 6.23.22 – LEVITICUS 19:18

As we all strive to be more Christ-like, let us turn our attention to an Old Testament scripture that reminds us of the Great Commandment, Leviticus 19:18. For today’s devotional, we take our cues from a prayer shared by *Knowing Jesus*.

“Heavenly Father, thank You for the Old Testament teachings and the many things that we can learn from Your Word. Teach

us to take every thought captive to Christ, when we feel that our rights are being violated or when we would like to take matters into our own hands. Thank You that through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, we are supplied with the sufficient grace to love others with Christ’s own perfect love, a love which passes our understanding. May we grow in grace and increase in holy love toward others, for Your greater glory. This we ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 6.24.22 – PSALM 82

THE GOD OVER THE GODS: The “gods” could be world rulers (verses 6-7), though this might also refer to the evil spiritual forces behind them (Ephesians 6:12). God is intensely concerned for the weak, the orphaned, the poor, and the powerless (verses 3-4). Christians will be moved to help the needy and the poor if their faith is genuine (James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18). God is committed to justice because, remarkably, he identifies with the poor. To oppress the poor is to disdain him (Proverbs 14:31). Only in Jesus Christ do we learn just how far God would go to identify with the poor and oppressed. He became a poor human being who died on the cross, a victim of human injustice.

PRAYER: Lord, because I live in a relatively comfortable and safe part of the world and society, I am not as sensitive to the needs of the weak as you are. Help me to hate the injustice you hate and love the poor and needy whom you love. 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 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

- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (beginning July 6th)**
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: "U-Turns Permitted" (Change In Attitude)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:48

Change is hard, but it's not impossible. Not everyone is reluctant to change.

Cornelius experiences a dramatic change in:

1. Spiritual P _____

- **EPHESIANS 2:8-9**

Instead of trusting in his good works to make him acceptable to God, Cornelius places his trust alone in Jesus alone to forgive his sins and to give him eternal life.

Peter experiences a dramatic change in:

2. Cultural P _____

- **MARK 7:18-19**

If God doesn't show favoritism, then Peter reasons that neither should he—and neither should we.

APPLICATION – Prejudice Extermination Plan:


- Try to catch yourself every time you _____ someone because of their _____.
- Next, associate negative _____ with prejudiced _____.
- Then, replace your _____ thoughts with _____ thoughts.
- Above all, _____ for those who are _____ than you.

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



June 20th – June 24th

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 10 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 11.

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