

MONDAY 7.11.22 – MATTHEW 25:34-40

We find it uncomfortable to interact with the less fortunate around us, especially when it inconveniences us. We have many opportunities to interact with other people, particularly ones who could be considered ‘the least of these’. How do we face these opportunities without being taken advantage of? Additionally, we often encounter those who hold an opinion different than our own. How are we to hold our ground without offending or insulting?

The next time you find yourself in one of these scenarios, imagine Jesus Christ was the other party in your presence. Imagine what you would do and how you would act if our Lord and Savior was ‘the least of these’ or if He offered up an opposing position to your own. Does this affect your response? When this happens, I encourage you to prepare and present a gentle response (Proverbs 15:1), turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39), and extend kindness, humility, and grace (Colossians 3:12).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 7.12.22 – COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

For many people being a good servant of Christ is what you do at church. I would suggest that your service to the Lord in church should reflect how you live your life when you are not in church. In Colossians 3:23, the Apostle Paul put it this way, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”. Serving Christ almost always involves people.

Are you leaving room in your life for the service of others? True service for Christ involves not only our actions but also our attitude. How’s your attitude? During your daily grind, are you, as 2 Corinthians 2:15 says, “to God the pleasing aroma of Christ” or is it safer to say you stink? We all need to strive to lead lives, both in and out of church, in a way that will leave the sweet smell of Christ linger wherever we go.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 7.13.22 – ACTS 13:4-16

Expectation is defined as “a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future.” Expectations—we all have them! Some expectations are positive; others are negative. Some expectations come to fruition; others never transpire. Life is full of expectations, and that is true in the Christian experience as well. At the outset of their first missionary journey in Acts 13, Barnabas and Saul possessed expectations. As the Holy Spirit sent them forth to share the gospel, they expected success in their mission. However, they realized that establishing churches would not be without its challenges. The same is true for us in the Christian life. There will be difficulties and heartaches. However, as believers we can rest assured that in all things God works for our good (Romans 8:28) and that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:39).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 7.14.22 – ISAIAH 40:28-31

For those of us who trust and take refuge in the everlasting God through Jesus, we can live in the assurance and expectation that He loves us with an everlasting love (Isaiah 54:8; Jeremiah 31:3) and gives us an everlasting salvation (Isaiah 45:17) and everlasting joy (Isaiah 35:10; 51:11; 61:7) and everlasting life (Daniel 12:2). In Jesus, God gives us His everlasting name (Isaiah 56:5) and holds us up with His everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27) and leads us in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:24).

And so we can take great comfort in the arms of our everlasting God who “does not faint or grow weary” (Isaiah 40:28). He is infinitely strong, and defends us in our weakness. And He is infinitely resourceful and unmatched in mercy, and comforts us in our need. While the everlasting God is more than we can fully understand or wrap our minds around, it is a great comfort to know that the One on whom we wait for deliverance is able to outlast any foe and overcome any threat to our everlasting joy. He is truly a God worthy of our everlasting worship.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 7.15.22 – PSALM 23

EXPECT PEACE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE: God has a celebration meal with us not after we finally get out of the dark valley but in the middle of it, in the presence of our enemies. He wants us to rejoice in him in the midst of our troubles. Is our shepherd out of touch with reality? Hardly. Jesus is the only shepherd who knows what it is like to be a sheep (John 10:11). He understands what we are going through and will be with us every step of the way, even through death itself, where “all other guides turn back”17 (Romans 8:39).

PRAYER: Lord, if I fed on your love, grace, and truth, I would not be in any want. In this life I will never attain that, yet you are always with me, and someday you will lead me to my true country, the home I’ve been looking for all my life. Help me rest in that. 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: *Journey's of Paul*
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: POWER: A Continued Study in Acts 12-18

SERMON: "Phase Three" (Power In Service)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:1-5

*In Acts 1:8, Jesus says that we will be His witnesses.
There are three phases to His plan:*

- Phase 1–Start _____
- Phase 2–Launch _____
- Phase 3–Go _____

In preparation to be Christ's witnesses, we ...

1. Come _____ (v 1)

Despite our differences, believers are united in Christ.

2. Let _____ (vv 2-3)

The Holy Spirit guides believers as they are ...

- s _____

The word translated "worshipping" is a Greek word which means "to serve religiously." It has the idea of being involved in ministry for the Lord.

- S _____

The purpose of fasting is to focus on God. The time you would normally spend eating a meal, you spend in prayer.

3. Get others _____ (vv 4-5)

Invite believers to join you in God's work.


- Acts 11:25; 12:25

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



July 11th – July 15th

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 13 and the Power of Service. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we continue in Acts 13 and consider the Power of Expectation.

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