

MONDAY 7.25.22 – Matthew 20:28

Like the disciples before us, I think we often have the expectation that with God on our side, we are entitled to certain things. Because we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior our lives will be easier, and we want others to listen and follow us because we must be correct based on what we have come to know. How could our thoughts and ideas and teachings possibly be incorrect if they are based on our faith in God? Surely, if we are following Jesus and trying to be more Christ-like, then others would do well to follow us no questions asked... right?

But, that is not the way we mere humans work now is it. Even back to our childhood we often took the path opposite of the ones our parents and guardians would have chosen for us. The context of our scripture today reflects a slightly different way for others to use us to come to Jesus in their own time. A gentler way. Not "follow me because I am right"! More, "this is what I know... how can I use that to help you where you are"? Servant, slave, serve, give... a much more gentle way to show others what our faith means to us and how that same faith could change their life.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 7.26.22 – Galatians 1:3-4

Why do you do the things you do? I am sure that there are many answers to that question, and I hope that one of them is "out of Love". Scripture is clear that it was out of love that Christ was willing to commit the ultimate sacrifice for you. Romans 5:8 tells us, "But God demonstrates his own love for us (you) in this: While we (you) were still sinners, Christ died for us (you)". John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever (you) believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". John 15:13 Reminds us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends". Christ's love for us should motivate us, out of love for Him, to a life of service and sacrifice for Him. In fact, I think it is fair to say that, at least in

part, our willingness to sacrifice in service for Christ is directly related to our level of love for Christ.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 7.27.22 – Acts 14:1-28

"committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust."

Paul and Barnabas were individuals, born and raised in different households and in different environments. However, as fellow missionaries commissioned and sent by the Church at Antioch, they were united in focus and purpose. As they traveled together on the first missionary journey, they shared the good news of Jesus Christ in unevangelized fields, seeking to lead both Jew and Gentile to Christ. When Paul and Barnabas left an area, they encouraged the newly established believers to look to God for their spiritual strength and sustenance. These new followers of Jesus were to fix their hope and heart on Christ—not men. Likewise, keep your affection on Christ and your eyes focused heavenward.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 7.28.22 – Malachi 2:10

Every single person reading this... every person you work or study with, every person who thinks differently than you, every person with whom you have quarreled, every person you love, and, yes, every person you don't... all of us, every single one of us share in being image bearers of the God of the universe. We share in being His prized and treasured, His "very good" creation. This unites us!

And what's more, those of who are in Christ, not only share unity in our creation, but also in our recreation (see 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Truly, "do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us?" AND, do we not all have ONE Savior? Did not one God give Himself up as a ransom for ALL of us? (See 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

If so, if we really believe this, may we earnestly set aside meaningless quarrels and the silly things we let build walls of division between us. And may we repent of ever allowing such walls to stand.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 7.29.22 – Psalm 133

UNITY. The unity of God's people brings opposites together, symbolized by tall Hermon in the rural north and the little hill of Zion in the urban south (verse 3). For Hermon's dew to fall on Zion would be a miracle—and so is the supernatural bond that brings people far divergent in culture, race, and class together in the Lord. The unity and love he gives us is like precious oil in ancient times (verse 2), making people fragrant and attractive to us who otherwise we would dismiss or reject. So "be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).

PRAYER: Lord, the world will know us by our love for one another across the racial and cultural barriers that divide the rest of the human race. Yet the church is often too much like the world in this. Teach me how to help the church be the diverse, unified Body it was meant to be. And let me do this in a non-self-righteous way. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 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)
"The Four Wills Of God" with Scott Naus
 You Are Never Alone—Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Joel Day

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00PM

Kids KID'S CLUB (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: Journeys of Paul

BIG IDEA – SMALL GROUP(S) - **Resuming in August**
 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: "Operation Rescue" (Power in Mission)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:16-52

In Paul's first recorded sermon, he shares about four great rescue missions led by four rescuers...

1. _____ (vv 16-19)

2. _____ (vv 20-21)



3. _____ (v 22)

4. _____ (vv 23-41)

- Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 53:3

You must make a decision. You can't remain neutral. If you have already placed your trust in Jesus for eternal life, then you don't have to do it again. It's a permanent and binding transaction that only needs to be made once. However, if you've never made that decision to trust Christ, why not do that right now? Stop trusting in your good works, religious rituals, charitable giving, moral lifestyle or whatever else you're trusting in to merit God's favor and to earn eternal life. Instead, place your trust alone in Jesus alone for forgiveness.

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day
 TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



July 25th – July 29th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (*E2*) 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 in Mission. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we turn to Acts 14 and consider the Power in Unity.

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