

MONDAY 8.1.22 — Luke 9:49-50

So often our pride manifests itself as group pride. The attitude is, "if we don't do it, then it must not be important." The apostles want their little band of "Jesus followers" to be the primary bunch. Their thinking seems to be something like this: "He chose us, so surely there couldn't be anyone else as important." Jesus, however, is not about building prideful little cliques. Instead, he wants to build groups of welcoming disciples who are thankful for all who are helping build the Kingdom of God. Jesus' point is very simple: If they're not against us, then they're for us! O my, if only we could have that attitude today.

PRAYER: Forgive us, humble us, and correct us, O Father, for our rivalry, petty spirit, divisiveness, pride, and arrogance. It is unconscionable that we have split your church into so many subgroups. Work in your people with your Spirit to bring us back to a more faithful unity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 8.2.22 — Philippians 2:1-3

Paul gives four reasons why we should have greater unity between us: the encouragement given us by Christ; the power of Christ's love working in us; the common fellowship we have in the same Spirit; and the sympathetic kindness that we should show to each other. In the Bible, though the Philippians bring Paul great joy, that joy will not be complete until there is genuine unity among them. They are not to be concerned solely with their own spiritual progress, for this can lead to self-satisfaction and pride. They must learn to look for and admire the good points in others. We are called to do the same. If we are indeed 'in Christ Jesus,' we should share His spirit of humility; and humility means denying self for the sake of serving others. Christ did not selfishly grasp for the supreme glory of heaven, even though it was His by right (for he was God). Rather, He became a servant for the sake of sinful humankind... you and me. Where is your focus... on yourself or on others?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 8.3.22 — Acts 15:1-35

Vince Lombardi is considered by many as the greatest coach in football history. He is best known as the head coach of the Green Bay Packers during the 1960s. He led the team to three straight and five total National Football League Championships in seven years. Additionally, he won the first two Super Bowls in the 1966 and 1967 seasons. He achieved such success by constantly drilling his players in the rudiments of blocking, tackling, and running. They excelled in the fundamentals of the game. Likewise, believers in Christ need to be reminded continually of the fundamentals—not in sports but in spiritual life. One such foundational truth is salvation by grace through faith in Christ. In Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council upheld and reiterated that basic teaching. Hold firmly to the Scriptural fact that a person is declared right in God's sight by faith in Christ apart from works.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 8.4.22 — Micah 6:8

You have all heard the story of Vince Lombardi holding up a football in front of his team and saying, "gentlemen this is a football." Sometimes we need to get back to the basics, not only in sports, but in our Christian walk. Think about it. At the very basic level what does God want from you? Well, according to Micah 6:8 He wants us to "act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Simply put, God wants you to treat people fairly, be quick to be understanding and extend love, and to not think highly of yourself, but put the needs of others before your own and do it all as an

extension of Christ's love. I think we would all agree that acting in accordance with God's expectations would have a major impact on our lives and the lives of those we interact with each day. Brothers and sisters let's get back to the basics. After all it is what God expects.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 8.5.22 — Psalm 90:5-12

WE FLY AWAY. We are painfully reminded that our lives are exercises in disintegration—we are wearing down and wearing out until we are dust again (verse 3; cf. Genesis 2:7). Verses 7– 11 remind us that death is not the natural order of things but the effect of our turning from God and the curse on all creation (Genesis 3:1–19). Without this robust doctrine of sin, we will not be wise (verse 12). We will be constantly shocked by what people (and we) are capable of, by how life swiftly takes away everything we love. We will trust in our own abilities too much and seek satisfaction in things that we will inevitably lose. Face sin and death or be out of touch with reality.

PRAYER: Lord, I have not done the profound soul work necessary to be ready to die. Give me the strength to ask the big question: Would I be ready to die tomorrow? Be such a "living, bright reality" to me that I can answer that question wisely and then do what is necessary. 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: "Playing As A Team" (Power in Unity)
SCRIPTURE: Acts 14:1-28

God wants believers to be team players in the church.

Team players are...

1. _____ when situations are tough (vv 1-7)

- GALATIANS 6:9

2. _____ when activities go well (vv 8-20)

- Three characteristics of the Lord:

➤ God of C _____ (v 15)

➤ God of C _____ (v 16)

➤ God of C _____ (v 17)

3. _____ for others (vv 21-22)

4. _____ on God (vv 23-28)

- 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6

No matter what the team, they will not succeed without teamwork. The same is true of the church. You're on a team so be a team player!

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



August 1st – 5th

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 14 and the Power of Unity. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us to continue in this series as we turn to Acts 15 and consider the Power of Essentials.

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