

MONDAY 8.22.22 – Matthew 11:28-30

*Are you hurting and broken within?
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling.
Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.*

-O Come To The Altar

I really love saying that Jesus came for the broken, the messy, the sinner, the perpetually dependent and needy... the weary. I really love singing about that truth, too. But I really, really, REALLY have a hard time being one of those people. I know intellectually that I need Jesus, but the experience of that is rarely in a heart-warming, soul-cleansing, emotionally-gratifying way. Instead, it usually fleshes itself out in rebuke and/or conviction, a grieved heart, confession, repentance, and a lower view of myself and a higher view of Christ.

We see over and over in Scripture that God responds to us in our weakness and weariness. Psalm 147, Isaiah 55, Matthew 11 quickly come to mind, but if we devoted five minutes to mining the treasure of the Word for more, we'd soon be wading through a steady, growing river of evidence of this truth. That's why it's so important for us to preach the gospel to our own hearts and others as often as we can. We NEED to hear again and again, the invitation that Jesus offers each of us and all of us to come to Himself.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 8.23.22 – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

For today's devotional, let us pray these words together... Gracious and loving God, thank You that Your grace, Your power, and Your love are sufficient for all our needs. Help us to rest in this truth, Lord. Your grace, power, and love are sufficient! When we are weak, Your strength shines through! Lord, if we were strong on our own others would not be able to see You more clearly. So, we thank You for what makes us weak, and we ask for the strength and grace to endure. Help us to recognize and rejoice in the knowledge that Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to boast even more gladly in our weaknesses, insults, catastrophes, persecutions,

and pressures, so that Your great power and ability may be more present in our lives - this we pray in the name of Him who is our strength, Your son and our Savior, Christ Jesus, AMEN.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 8.24.22 – MATTHEW 28:18-20

In 1851, Queen Victoria and the city of London played host to "The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations." It was an opportunity for inventors to show the most innovative industrial equipment of the day. The machine that won first prize was a masterpiece of 7,000 moving parts. There were gears, pulleys, pistons, bells, and whistles—all perfectly synchronized. However, the machine made nothing—absolutely nothing! Those thousands of parts just pumped, twisted, and turned together. All that power and all that work served no useful purpose. The same thing can happen to a church. It can have a multitude of programs and activities and yet accomplish nothing of eternal value. A church must focus on fulfilling the Great Commission entrusted to them by Jesus: Go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey all that I have commanded.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 8.25.22 – Isaiah 6:8

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am Lord, send me.'"

When I say "Smoky Mountain" I would bet that most of you envision rolling hills with the sun peaking over the mountain top and the fog lifting from the valleys. If you say Smoky Mountain in the Philippines people envision the city dump

that continually smokes because of fires burning beneath the surface and where literally tens of thousands of people live in cardboard shanties and scratch out a horrendous existence scrounging through the garbage. This is just one example of hundreds of thousands of people around the world who desperately need to know that despite where they are Christ loves them and cares about them. As you reflect on this fact this morning, I would ask that you also reflect on the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here I am Lord, send me".

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 8.26.22 – Psalm 107:1-9

THEY HAD NO CITY. Here are people who are lost (verse 4), hungry (verse 5), exhausted (verse 5), and isolated because they did not live in a city (verses 5 and 7). At one level this shows that cities can be good places for human thriving. At the deepest level it means we need Jesus—to heal our spiritual lostness, remove our spiritual hunger, give rest for our spiritual exhaustion, and through his Body end our loneliness.112 So believers work to make our cities good places for everyone to live (Jeremiah 29:7) and also call all to become citizens of the heavenly city (Revelation 21-22; Hebrews 12:22-24) through faith in God.

Prayer: Lord, save me from being so caught up in my own pursuits that I'm not a great neighbor to others in my city. But also save me from being seduced too much by the glitz and excitement of my earthly city. Let my heart rest in its citizenship of your heavenly one. 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)
Mere Hope: Life in the Age of Cynicism with Shawn Devlin
You Are Never Alone—Room B1-2 (Lower Level)
with Joel Day

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: *Journeys of Paul*

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: "European Campaign" (Power in Weakness)

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:11-40

"Blessed are you O God, King of the Universe, who has not made me a Gentile, a slave, or a woman."

~ Jewish prayer

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."

~ 1 Corinthians 1:27

1. Foreign _____ (vv 11-15)

- Titus 3:5
- Ephesians 2:8-9

Lydia placed her trust in Jesus for eternal life. After Lydia did that, she got baptized. Baptism doesn't take away your sins or add to your salvation. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to put your faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Demon Possessed _____ (vv16-19)

The girl was free of the demon that possessed her, but her masters were upset because they lost their source of income.

3. _____ Jailer (vv 20-40)

Despite being beaten, thrown in jail, and put in stocks, Paul and Silas pray and sing.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." (v 31)

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



August 22nd – August 26th

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 16 and the Power in Weakness. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for next week's Quarterly Missions Speaker.

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