

MONDAY 3.6.23 – Matthew 7:1-5

When I first read this verse, I thought it meant that I should be careful in criticizing others because I have a much larger issue of my own. Sometimes that explanation is accurate. My error may well be worse than the one I am criticizing. But another perspective is that the speck in my brother’s eye is the same size as the speck in mine. But when I examine his closely, it looms so much larger. Therefore, I should take care to see other’s issues in light of my own imperfections. Still another perspective is possible. I may be correct and have no actual speck in my own eye. I may properly see a speck in a brother’s eye, but getting too close makes his speck larger than proper in my eye’s perception. I should be careful to back up, get proper perspective and balance. Then I can talk sensibly with my friend and keep relations on an even keel.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 3.7.23 – James 4:11-12

Brothers and sisters do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister^[a] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Today’s scripture took my mind immediately to 1 Samuel 16:7b. “People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Humans are judgmental. In the workplace we judge our boss. In the home we judge our spouse, kids, parents. In the church we judge ..., *I will let you fill in the blanks on that one.* What does James mean when he says, “anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it.” It really is simple, “honor your father and mother, do not give false testimony, love your neighbor as yourself, ... When you judge others are you keeping these commandments or choosing to judge them as not worthy of being obeyed?

We need to be careful, and proactive, letting genuine love be our guide. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” John 13:35

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY – 3.8.23 – Acts 27:1-44

I’ve seen bumper stickers on cars that read: “I’d rather be sailing.” That’s understandable. Sea lovers can’t resist the fun of being on the water in a sailboat pushed along by the wind. I have never seen a bumper sticker that read: “I’d rather be shipwrecked.” No one sets sail with the hope of running aground somewhere. However, experienced sailors have learned to accept certain risks in exchange for their love of the sea. In the same way, the Apostle Paul learned to accept difficulties as part of the Christian life. In the midst of his shipwreck, Paul clung to the presence and promises of God to see him through the storm and to safety.

Do you know someone whose life has been recently shipwrecked? Go to them and encourage them with God’s assurance: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Heb. 13:5).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 3.9.23 – Proverbs 27:12

God commands us to be strong and courageous as we live our earthy lives. Does this mean we should rush headlong into every dangerous situation that presents itself? On the contrary, our faith provides protection from the coming doom. To paraphrase Theologian Charles Bridges: “Every intelligent man acts upon animal instinct.

He foresees coming evil and provides himself a shelter. There is frightful evil on every side. The man who has never realized this evil is without a hiding place. The man who stays outside the gate, perishes as if there was no refuge. A simple, foolish man leaves things to take their course, saying, ‘God is so merciful. Everything will be fine.’ But the madness of the world engages their heart. All besides is forgotten; and so, they pass on and are punished. The ignorant rush blindfolded into Hell. The sinner plunges into it in despite of every effort to restrain him. The prudent hide themselves in God.” Per Proverbs 18:10, “The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 3.10.23 - Psalm 91:1-6

If you are going through a difficult time, turn to God and allow him to speak to you through Psalm 91:1-6.

¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.^[a]

²I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

In these first two verses of Psalm 91 the psalmist speaks of comfort and security in the shelter and shadow of the Almighty, for those who place their trust in God. As you read on through verses 3-6, the psalmist tells us we will: be saved from danger and disease; find refuge and comfort; and be free of fear. Please do not fail to notice also, that all of this is available to us: by day, midday, and during the darkness of night when the enemy so often attacks.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

SUNDAY MORNINGS – 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid’s Wing on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
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** SPRING QUARTER BEGINS MARCH 5TH
LOCATION: B8-10 with Lane Kemler
Explore the Bible - *John, chapters 12-21*
LOCATION: B11 with David Hamilton
Masterwork - *Unfailing Love in Uncertain Times, a study of 1 John by J. Ryan Wicker*
LOCATION: B1-2 with Barry Wills
God Owns it All - *A 6-week study of financial principles that are affirmed by the authority of scripture and tested by the marketplace by author, Ron Blue*
LOCATION: Rm 2 (next to office) with Irene Hess
Share Your Story - *This 4-week study for ladies will help you share your faith by recognizing God’s presence in your life, identifying, and sharing your story and living out your faith*

SUNDAY EVENINGS – 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Kid’s Wing on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** DIVE DEEPER WITH DOUG
LOCATION: Worship Center

EVENING E2 STUDIES - Beginning the week of 3/20

- He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado**
- Wednesdays** LOCATION: YAC 6:30pm
- Thursdays** LOCATION: Vance Home, Orangeville

WOMEN’S STUDIES

- Thursdays** LOCATION: YAC 9:00am - 11am - Beginning 3/16
Jude, by Jackie Hill Perry
- Mondays** LOCATION: B8-10 - 6:30 - 8:30pm - Beginning 3/20
Decluttering by Faith, by D. Madsen & D. Kokku

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY GROUPS OR CLASSES, PLEASE USE THE CONNECT CARD IN YOUR BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

Acts 25:13-26:32
Who’s The Crazy One?

King Herod Agrippa II and his sister, Bernice, visit Governor Porcius Festus in Caesarea. Previously, the Apostle Paul appealed to Caesar after he appeared before Festus. So, Festus is about to send Paul to Rome to appear before Emperor Nero. However, Festus realizes he can’t send a prisoner to Caesar who hadn’t been officially charged with a crime. Therefore, Festus asks Agrippa for his input on the matter, and Agrippa thinks it’s wise to hear directly from Paul. So, Paul is brought before Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice to make his defense.

Paul doesn’t see King Agrippa as someone to fear because of his position. He doesn’t see him as someone to hate because of what his family had done. He sees him the way God sees him—as someone who needs Christ. We should view others the same way.

Paul begins his address by sharing with Agrippa what his life was like before he trusted in Jesus for eternal life.

Paul speaks of his ...

- _____ (vv 4-5)
- _____ (vv 6-8)
- _____ (vv 9-11)

Paul explains the reason for his changed life—he met Jesus (vv 12-14)! Festus interrupts Paul’s defense and claims that he is crazy (v 24), but Paul declares that his testimony is true and reasonable (v 25).

Like Paul, Christ has sent us to others in order *“to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me”* (v 18).

That is your high calling and special privilege.

“No R_____ ; No R_____ ; No R_____.”

~William Borden

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 6th – March 10th

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 Sunday’s message *“Who’s The Crazy One?”* from Senior Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on 3.12.23, *“The Perfect Storm”* from Senior Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” Acts 20:32