

Sermon Notes



“Gathered Table”
September 30th, 2018

While we deeply value our time on Sunday mornings, we recognize that unless we are spending intentional time with God and others throughout the week, we are not living out our full potential as disciples. This sheet aims to provide you with enough content connected to the central themes of the sermon to be engaged beyond Sundays. We believe a disciple of Jesus is one who is individually, communally, sacrificially, and missionally engaged in his or her faith. If you need assistance in getting plugged into a group or have further questions about the discipleship process, please reach out to our Discipleship Pastor, Mike Barnes or Pastor Pete.

Reflection Questions (please use these individually or in groups)

Sermon Questions:

1. For what reason(s) do you attend a Sunday worship gathering? What do you hope to experience and/or receive?
2. Are you more likely to lean toward celebration or stillness? Commit to intentionally seek out whichever is least natural for you.
3. Do you feel “built up” after a worship gathering on Sunday? In what practical ways can you make attempts to build others up during a day of worship?
4. If you aren’t already regularly using your gifts, talents, time or passion for the “common good” of the church, pray about what that might look like.

Additional Questions:

5. In an age where we are more likely to point out our differences rather than what we have in common, do you think the church being a space where we can all come together becomes even more crucial? What witness does this send to the world?
6. The church of the 21st century looks a lot different than the 1st century. That’s okay in some aspects but maybe not all. What are some tendencies we have that may need some revision? Consumerism, passivity, etc.
7. Consider which part of the “body” you are. No piece is more valuable than any other, but we all have a part to play. In what ways are you willing to contribute to the body?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Nehemiah 8:1-18** | What does it look like for you to have a “holy day?” What does it look like to carve out intentional sacred time and space in your life?
- **1 Corinthians 12:1-31** | Have you ever felt “unworthy” to serve the church? Have you ever felt like the church does not “need” you? That is clearly a false narrative. You are a valuable member to the church of Jesus because you are made in his image.
- **Ephesians 4:1-5:1** | As Christians, we are called to grow into maturity. As you reflect back on your life, what are some of the ways you have matured and what are some of the ways you have yet to mature?
- **Galatians 3:23-29** | Whatever things we use to discriminate (race, gender, wealth, etc.) Jesus does not use. How can you/the church reflect this mentality to the world?

Self-Care Disciplines *Excerpts from Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline** September Discipline: Meditation | Social Meditation (p.32)

This week’s form of meditation is focused on our social surroundings. It is to meditate upon the events of our time and to seek to perceive their significance. We have a spiritual obligation to penetrate the inner meaning of events, not to gain power, control, or things not yet known to us, but to gain prophetic perspective. Thomas Merton writes that the person “...who has meditated on the Passion of the Christ but has not meditated on the extermination camps of Dachau and Auschwitz has not yet fully entered into the experience of Christianity in our time.” This form of meditation is best accomplished with the “bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.” You must not, however, be controlled by the absurd political clichés and propaganda fed us today. Actually, news outlets and cable news are generally far too shallow and slanted to be of much help. We would do well to hold the events of our time before God and ask for prophetic insight to discern where these things lead. Further, we should ask for guidance for anything we personally should be doing to be salt and light in our decaying and dark world.