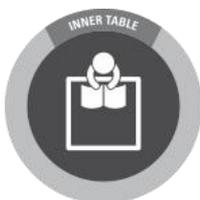
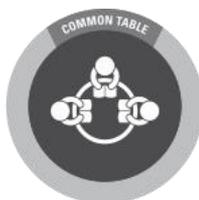


Sermon Notes

“All People”
January 5, 2020



Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

Sermon Reflections:

1. As you seek to hear, understand and apply the word of God in your life, where do you turn? How do you determine who to trust? What do you do when you hear difficult things, from lesser known sources, that challenge you?
2. Do you truly believe that the gifts of grace and salvation are for all people? Are there any people/groups that you exempt in your heart or mind?
3. What can the Church do today to "prepare the way" for the message of Jesus to be received in our neighborhoods and communities?
4. Are there any mountains that need torn down, or valleys that need filled in, in your personal journey with Jesus?

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **Matthew 3:1-6 | Does John seem like someone who would be an "appropriate" messenger for the word of God? Why or why not?**
- **Genesis 12:1-3 | Why do you think the children of Abraham lost sight of the design of God to bless all people?**
- **Isaiah 40:1-31 | This chapter describes God as both imminent (i.e. a Shepherd gathering his lambs) and transcendent (i.e. a Creator beyond our understanding). Which aspect of God are you most drawn to and why?**

Self-Care Disciplines *(from Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster)* January Discipline: Simplicity | Materialism (p.79-80)

The Christian discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle. Both the inward and the outward aspects of simplicity are essential. We deceive ourselves if we believe we can possess the inward reality without it having a profound effect on how we live. To attempt to arrange an outward life-style of simplicity without the inward reality leads to deadly legalism.

Experiencing the inward reality liberates us outwardly. Speech becomes truthful and honest. The lust for status and position is gone because we no longer need status and position. We cease from showy extravagance not on the grounds of being unable to afford it, but on the grounds of principle. Our goods become available to others.

We have an abundance of things/materials. Many of us love to spend money and acquire new items. Many of us deeply treasure items we already own that add no significant value to our lives. For some reason, we keep adding to our lives with "things" and not removing any of the old stuff. Our lives become cluttered with materials and when that happens, our whole self feels cluttered. This week, think of at least one item you can give away/throw away. As you do it, allow yourself to feel the release of letting go and clearing up space in your life.

Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.