

Pastor David's notes for 7/24-25/2010

Reaching For God Together

Giving ourselves With Passion

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 10:39

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:7-11

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14

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"Giving ourselves with
Passion & Conviction"

As we reach for God and find Him, we become passionate to give ourselves to the things that matter most because:

1. we have found the love that changes everything
2. we recognize we have something to give
3. we learn life is not for hoarding but sowing
4. we want to see what God will do

next weekend: our August series - "These 3 Remain"



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“Giving Ourselves with Passion & Conviction”: Matthew 10:39;
1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 4:7-11; Galatians 5:13-14
Mark 10:35-45; Philippians 2:1-16

1. In Mark 10:42-45, Jesus equates individual greatness with the choice to serve. He challenges his followers to have a great life, an important and powerful life, by seeking and serving the benefit of others. Is that just a nice thought or do you really believe this is true? By this standard who would you call “great” in our world today?

2. In Matthew 10:39 Jesus contrasts finding and losing life. He promises that whoever loses their life for His sake “will find it”. What does it mean “to lose your life for Jesus’ sake”? How different is that a way of living from trying to find something you are eventually going to lose?

3. How does reaching for and finding God begin to change our hearts about who and what is important? Why does coming to understand and receive God’s love and forgiveness for us in Jesus Christ inevitably begin to turn our lives inside/out?

4. In 1 Peter 4:7-11, the apostle writes that we should live in the simplicity of knowing that the end is not very far off. We should pray, love deeply, offer hospitality, use our gifts, speak the words of God, and serve in the strength God provides. As far as a winning agenda for life, this is a really good one. What in that list do you feel you are doing well in your daily experience? What needs to move up the list of priorities?

5. Paul spoke in 1 Corinthians 15:58 of the struggle we have to “give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord” in our lives and our world. He says we need to “stand firm”, “not be moved”, and not give in to the frustration that our labor is somehow “in vain”. What is it that we need to stand firm against exactly? What seeks to push us off our stance and direction to serve God with our lives?

6. Giving ourselves to others in love, service and sacrifice becomes more possible, more joyful, when we do it together rather than on our own. God made us to be part of something great, something bigger than ourselves, and we embrace and experience this greatness together through the doorway of service. Where are you experiencing a true sense of Christian cause and unity with others through common service? If you are not experiencing this, what is holding you back?
