

ministry – each of us able to contribute to be an integral part of the Body of Christ. Paul mentions the unity of God’s Spirit which binds us together with our Creator God and each other.

How do you view yourself in relationship with God and as part of the body of Christ? How has God gifted you to contribute to the Body of Christ? How do your relationships with God and others affect your contribution towards ministry? Write your thoughts here including what you consider to be your gifts. Thank God for the call and the gifts to be in ministry for Christ’s sake!

Thursday, October 27

Read John 6:1-15. Put yourself in the boy’s place in the story. How would you feel being brought before Jesus, your simple lunch in your hand? That lunch is all you have with you of any value. It is like the widow’s mite – of little value but incredibly important to you.

Today, please think about human need. Yes, there are the great needs of those who are helped by church. But the other side of that human need is our need to give. What is your need to give? How important is giving to you? How do you feel when you give? Write your thoughts here and ask God to place within you a generous, giving Spirit.

Friday, October 28

Read Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16. Called by God, encouraged to live a life worthy of that call and equipped to do so – that is what this scripture is about. It’s also about spiritual growth. It is about growing in our discipline to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. The message suggested that our giving toward our church’s ministry be regular, sacrificial and spiritual. Our giving should also be an adventure! How might your support of our ministry be an adventure? Write your thoughts here and ask God that a spirit of adventure be joined with your spirit of generosity!

Message Notes – October 23, 2022

Give It To Jesus^{*}

- I. A long, long time ago, a young boy from Capernaum was out searching for an _____.
- A. That was when a crowd of people came upon him and almost _____ him along in the direction they were heading.
- B. What the crowd found was _____ resting on the hillside with his chosen twelve.
- C. It had been a long journey for many of them, and they had made that journey with great speed and without _____.
1. At the sight of the crowd Jesus’ _____ was aroused.
2. They were hungry and tired, and they must be _____.
- D. The situation looked _____. No food... and expensive even if it could be obtained.
1. Then _____ appeared with that small boy from Capernaum.
2. The boy had with him the picnic lunch his mother prepared – not much – five small _____ loaves and two _____ fish.
- E. But Jesus took what little that boy had to offer and He raised it up as if it was the finest bread from _____.
1. Everyone ate their _____.
2. The leftover food was collected and given to the _____.
- II. More than the miracle itself, this is a story of _____.
- A. This is a story about _____.
- B. This is a story also about using available _____.
- C. This is a story about an _____.

^{*}John 6:1-15 and Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

- III. There are some fundamental _____ about stewardship that are expressed in this story of a little boy and his lunch.
- First, our giving should be in response to our _____ with God and Jesus Christ.
 - But I'm not talking about just money; I'm talking about _____ and what's really important to you.
 - Next, our giving should be in response to human _____ and _____.
 - Our giving should be a _____ – both in timing and amount.
- IV. I imagine that little boy standing before Jesus in the midst of those 12 disciples was more than a little _____.
- When reading the scriptures, I wonder about the _____ portions of the story.
 - It was the father who now spoke. “What exactly did you do with your _____?”
 - He stood before his father and mother, smiled and answered, “I _____ it to Jesus.”

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, October 24

Read John 6:1-15. It is an awesome miracle recorded in all four gospels – the feeding of five thousand. Matthew writes that there were 5000 men plus women and children! It would take half a year's wages to feed them all, according to Philip. (John 6:7) A little boy with five barley loaves and two little fish was brought to Jesus who blessed the bread and all present ate to their fill. Twelve baskets of leftovers were collected.

For those who want to an logical explanation to what many

embrace as a supernatural phenomenon, one has been offered. Some believe that there were those in the crowd who followed Jesus that brought food and when the five barley loaves two fish were blessed, they brought out their food and shared it with people around them. It has been suggested that the “true miracle” that day was the incredible generosity that spread through the crowd. This explanation offers the seeds for other “miracles” of generosity and possibilities. Contemplate the meaning of this miracle; write your thoughts here as you pray for God to create within you a generous spirit full of possibilities.

Tuesday, October 25

Read John 6:1-15. If you have time, you may want to read one of the other Gospel's accounts of the feeding of 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17). In the message, it was mentioned that this story is about money, resources and adventure. Certainly, the cost of feeding the crowd of 5000 was calculated – over six month's wages! Simple resources were offered for that same task – two fish and five barley loaves. The perspective of the message was from the perspective of the young man looking for an adventure.

Think about those three words: money, resources and adventure. Do you look at your offering of funds and resources to the church – your time, expertise and possessions – as an adventure? Do you ever think of the difference your giving makes in the life of another through the ministry of Central Church?

Wednesday, October 26

Read Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16. These words from the Apostle Paul illustrates well one of the fundamental truths of stewardship: our giving should be in response to our relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Paul encourages us to live a life worthy of God's call upon our lives. He writes that each of us is gifted for