

one of service, healing and helping others through his teachings. What does the concept of servant-leadership mean to you personally? Write your thoughts here and ask God to guide you in your understanding and possible course of action.

Thursday, November 30

Read II Samuel 23:1-7. Two of the “job requirements” for Christian Leadership are following God’s Spirit and fierce love. What does it mean to follow God’s Spirit? How do you know God’s direction for your life? There are many paths to understanding God’s Spiritual guidance – too numerous to mention.

Read again II Samuel 23 verses 3 and 4. David says that “ruling in the fear of God” – that is ruling with a keen awareness of God in our lives – is “like the sun rising on a cloudless morning.” There is such clarity when we are following God’s Spirit! David concludes, “Is not my house like this with God?” Our “house” is in order when we are following God’s Spirit (vs. 5).

David also expressed his tremendous love for God and rejoiced in God’s love of him. That assurance gave him the confidence to follow God’ Spirit without hesitation. Pray that God’s guidance will be clear to you and then follow it with the confidence that you are loved! Write your thoughts here.

Friday, December 1

The third “job requirement” for Christian leadership is giving others encouragement. How do you encourage others? Much encouragement is offered when others lead by example and “pitch in” with the work to be done. Do you lead by example? Do you offer encouragement to others? How have you been encouraged?

Connecting with our God is the key to not losing hope or courage. How can you better connect with God and God’s purposes? The New Year is fast approaching – what resolutions might you make in order to be a Christian leader for the transformation of the world? You can do it! Write your ideas here asking God for a spirit of encouragement.

Message Notes – November 26, 2023

*King of Kings**

- I. Royalty and Kingdoms is often a difficult subject for us who live in a _____.
 - A. The concept of a person who, by birthright holds life tenure as the chief authority over a country and people is contrary to our sense of political fairness and _____.
 - B. I like to consider the king as a model of _____.
 - C. If a king is one who has authority or a person who is preeminent in a particular field – such as the king of rock and roll – then each of us has a kingdom if you will - over which we have _____.
 - D. We Christians need to step up to the proverbial plate and exercise our leadership in the _____.
- II. To that end, the Old Testament and Gospel lessons for this week illustrate the mysterious qualities and unique characteristics ____ has chosen to hold up as necessary for those who would lead people on their life journeys of faith.
 - A. Leaders are _____ first of all. Jesus said, "The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Luke 28:28).
 - B. Jesus did not define his _____ in terms of ruling over others, but serving others.
 - C. Christian leaders are _____: people who resign their self-appointed positions as captains of the ship and who reside as part of the ship's crew.
 - D. The word "leader" has no higher meaning than that in the _____ understanding and definition of faith.
- III. When considering the qualifications for Christian leadership, it would be wise to post a few _____ for candidates.

* II Samuel 23:1-7 and John 18:33-37

Study Guide

This study guide is designed for you to daily, throughout this next week, consider the lessons of today's message and delve further into scripture that will enhance your growth as a Christian.

Monday, November 27

Read John 18:33-37. Pilate tried to understand Jesus' Kingship in earthly terms and was frustrated by Jesus' words "My Kingdom is not from this world." Of course, Jesus was speaking about the spiritual kingdom of God that provides a vision for the earthly kingdom of God.

As people who live in a representative Democracy, we sometimes have difficulty embracing the concept of a Kingdom. A King is one who is sovereign – has full authority over others. The issue is does Jesus Christ have full authority over you? Meditate and pray on that question today and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, November 28

The message suggested that we embrace the concept of being royalty ourselves – to exercise our authority in the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. How comfortable are you with this concept of being royalty as we proclaim Jesus as King of Kings?

Read John 1:1-13. If we are children of God then don't we have a claim on Christ's royalty? I Peter 2:9 proclaims that we are a "royal priesthood." It's not such a crazy idea for us to be kings after all! Jesus is our King and we are his Kings on earth. Praise God!

Wednesday, November 29

Jesus said, "The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Luke 28:28). Leaders are servants first of all. Jesus did not define his ministry in terms of ruling over others, but serving others. "This is how one should regard us," Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4:1, "as servants of Christ and as stewards of the mystery of God."

How do you feel about being a "servant-leader?" There is a lot to say about leading by example. Jesus is God but yet his role on earth was

- A. The first requirement for leadership is to have been touched and called by God's _____.
 - B. The second item in this job description is what I would call fierce _____.
 - 1. 1 John 4:18 claims that "Perfect love casts out _____."
 - 2. Without _____ in God's love, King David could not assert his commitment to ruling with justice and righteousness as his constant guides.
 - 3. MacGregor Bums talks of the "_____" leader as opposed to the merely "transactional" one.
 - a. Transactional leaders just go through the _____ of doing business.
 - b. Transformational leadership takes _____ in reaching out to others, acting on their dreams and plans.
 - C. The third item in this job description for a Christian leader is a Christian leader gives _____.
- IV. David also spoke with confidence speaks these words about his God – our God: "Will he not cause to _____ all my help and my desire?"
- A. On this final Sunday of the Christian year – as we prepare a new year in January – as we prepare in the weeks to come – I want you to consider what it means to be _____.
 - B. When we proclaim Jesus Christ as King of Kings, I want for us to take up that name for ourselves and realize that the world can be a _____ place because we are kings in our own right and will lead our world with that confident fierce love and encouragement that we need to live out our own mission at Waterford Central United Methodist Church – "Connecting with God. Connecting with Others. Changing our World with Christ's Love!"