

Thursday, May 23

Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 and Acts 2:1-21. The message shared the idea that we are to be witnesses to God's presence in our lives as well as God's promise to never leave us alone. God's presence is evident in all creation and humanity is the crown jewel of creation – made in God's very image. God's presence was most clearly expressed in the life and earthly ministry of Jesus the Christ. After Christ left earth and returned to heaven, humanity received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit of God that provides God's presence and guidance in our lives.

How do you experience God's presence in your life? Have you ever felt as if God was not present to you? How do you express God's presence to others? What experiences can you share that demonstrates that God is always with us? Write your thoughts here and ask that God continually reveal God's self to you.

Friday, May 24

Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 and I John 4:8-19. A recent Barna Research Group survey says that 66% of American adults and 72% of young adults ages 18-25 say they do not believe in an absolute or objective truth. Remember that a witness is one who simply shares what he or she knows to be true. While it could be argued that truth is subjective depending on the individual, certain truths concerning our God and savior are absolute.

What do you believe to be the absolute truth about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit? In other words, what do you believe to be the foundational principles of our Christian faith? To what truths do you cling to in times of difficulty? In times of great blessing? Write your thoughts and consider what truths you can share with others, confident that the Holy Spirit is empowering you to do so.

Message Notes – May 19, 2024

The Truth of the Matter *

- I. _____ drives much of our lives and now Artificial Intelligence – the stuff of futuristic movies – has become a reality.
 - A. Daily we are increasing the amount of _____ we place upon technology rather than other human beings.
 - B. The danger is that our trust of technology gives it _____ over our lives.
 - C. The problem is that technology doesn't have an innate _____ compass and it is still up to human beings to decide what is moral and right as well as distinguish between information and truth.

- II. On this Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the coming of one who brings ultimate _____.
 - A. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and distilled for them the truth of the gospel and empowered them to go out and _____ it in a way that people of all nations could hear it (Acts 2).
 - B. The Spirit generated inspiration as well as information, and _____ to speak with new and bolder voices.
 - C. No shortcuts. No computer imaging. Just us. Humans. People making themselves _____ to God.
 - D. But there is good news at work here friends – we are not left _____.
 - E. The _____ comes to stand in for Jesus.

* John 15:26-27;16:4b-15 and Acts 2:1-21

- III. What are we called to be and do as part of God's mission? To be _____.
- The truth of the matter is this is all about _____ living.
 - Truth is not a human _____ but rather a divine _____ from God.
- IV. Four truths that we can all _____ to in our Christian faith.
- First, we can all witness the truth of _____.
 - Second we can all bear witness to the truth of our _____ in life.
 - Third, we can all bear witness to God's _____ in our lives.
 - The fourth and final truth that we can bear witness to is God's _____ to always be with us.
 - Pentecost is a reminder that if we really want to know the _____, we have to allow the Spirit to embody in us the image of God _____ in 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, May 20

Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 and Acts 2:1-21. The message began with the idea that humans have become dependent on technology – from defining our relationships to providing entertainment. How have you become dependent on technology? Upon which technologies have you become dependent? Can you distinguish which technologies enhance your life rather than control your life? Write your thoughts here, giving thanks to God for technologies that bless us.

Tuesday, May 21

Read Acts 2:1-21. God, in God's wisdom, chose to empower humans to give a face to divine truth, to give a voice to the divine message and to give legs to the divine mission. No shortcuts. No computer imaging. Just us. Humans. People making themselves available to God. We are empowered to be God's witnesses in the world; to share the good news that God created us out of love, created us for relationships and is dependent on sharing His love with others. Pentecost is all about human beings being empowered to do God's Kingdom work on earth. Think of the images of power in this second chapter of Acts: a mighty wind, tongues of fire, the ability to communicate so that all can understand.

How has God empowered you? What abilities and gifts do you possess that are useful for God's kingdom purposes? What gifts and graces have others recognized in you? Meditate on how God has empowered you for His work on earth, write your thoughts here and give thanks for God's guidance upon your life.

Wednesday, May 22

Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 and I John 4:8-19. While Pentecost tells us that we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit, for what are we empowered? The general answer for all Christians is we are called to be witnesses of God's presence and love in our lives. That is our purpose as followers of Jesus Christ and we live that purpose in our relationships with God and with others in the world.

In a court room, a witness tells what he or she knows to be the truth. What truths can you share about your relationship with God and others? What truths are unique to your experience of the Christian faith? Write your thoughts here and pray for clarity in your witness of God's love and purpose for your life.