

Thursday, October 10

Once again read Luke 17:5-10. There are really two sides to this Parable of the Mustard Seed in Luke's gospel. The point of great things as the result of small efforts on the part of many people is clearly made. Then there is the mention of the slave or servants in some Bible translations. The point is when we are responding to God's call upon our lives to offer ourselves in service to our fellow human beings; we are simply doing what is expected of us.

It may surprise you that God has expectations of us. The Apostle Paul wrote, "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called." (Ephesians 4:1) These thoughts connect well with our Generosity Campaign this month; an important part of the Christian life is discerning God's call upon your life. What might God be calling you to do? What expectations could God have for your service in the church? There's a difference between a committee of the pastor asking you to serve in the church and contemplating what God wants from you! Contemplate these ideas and write your thoughts here.

Friday, October 11

Read Luke 17:5-10. Read these words of Jesus as if Jesus is speaking directly to you. How do you connect your faith with being generous in your support of Central Church's ministry and mission? The Apostle Paul wrote that we should walk by faith and not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7). If you walk by faith, do you believe you would take greater risks in serving God? How do you interpret Paul's words about walking in faith? How does your faith connect with your support of Central Church? Meditate on these questions, ask for God's wisdom and write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – October 6, 2024

*Living God's Vision – Small Steps Toward Big Change**

- I. Our theme for this year's Generosity Campaign is Living _____ Vision.
 - A. Each of us will consider our _____ as we decide how we will support the ministry and mission of Central Church next year.
 - B. I hope that we will come to value the concept of working as a _____ to accomplish God's vision for us as a church.
 - C. I sincerely plan to demonstrate for you how each of us can come together as the living body of Christ and have an _____ in our world.
- II. Did you know that you've got _____? In fact, each of us is a little _____.
 - A. Every time you take a _____, you generate six to eight watts of energy?
 - B. An architectural firm in London is now looking at ways to _____ that energy on a large scale and turn it into _____.
 - C. There's power in _____.
- III. In today's passage from Luke, the apostles say to Jesus, "_____ our faith!"
 - A. Jesus understands the significance of _____.
 - B. At the very least, what Jesus is doing here is to underscore the notion that _____ doesn't have to be huge to have an _____.
- IV. Let's consider just one idea of how small steps can make a difference: _____ and _____.
 - A. The key is to start small, and work for peace in our own _____ and _____.

*Luke 17:5-10

- B. Habits of _____. Those are small steps that can have a huge impact.
 1. Our best efforts are just a few small steps. Nothing _____ in themselves.
 2. But when combined with the efforts of other faithful people, they can have a _____ impact.
- V. None of our actions are going to transform the world _____, but they may transform your world and that of your neighbor
 - A. Enormous power is generated by tiny acts of _____ and _____, and in time this energy will change our world for the better.
 - B. Then you'll know the huge _____ of mustard-seed-faith. And the power of small steps.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional 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 7

Yesterday was World Communion Sunday, celebrated by many denominations as a specific opportunity to recognize the world-wide impact the universal Christian Church can make. While we celebrate the diversity of our various denominations, we also recognize our common need to be faithful in our daily lives and seek to make a difference in our world.

Pastor Jack gave a brief history of how World Communion Sunday was created. While we might marvel of the scope of the world community of Christ-followers, each of us might wonder how our small contribution to the faith can make a difference. That's the point of celebrating World Communion Sunday; to know that each of us, in our own small way contributes to the overall ministry of Jesus Christ in the world today. What are your thoughts? How are you contributing to the World Wide Church? Write your reflections here.

Tuesday, October 8

The message began with an illustration of an architectural firm in London, England that has engineered ways to capture energy from the vibrations of people's steps on a floor. The illustration mentioned that each of us generate six to eight watts of energy with each step. Combine that with 34,000 other people at London's Victoria Train Station and you can capture a great deal of power.

The illustration is clear and in sync with our celebration of World Communion Sunday: Each of us through our small contribution of walking on a floor that can capture the vibration energy along with many others can make a significant difference in the world. It is the same with our ministry and mission: Our small contributions to the mission of Christ in the world today combined with all other Christ-followers will make a true difference in the world. Once again, ask yourself what contribution can you make to the church of Jesus Christ today? Contemplate your gifts and talents, your education and training, your interests and hobbies. How can you make a difference to the ministry of Central Church? How can you make a difference to world mission of the church? Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, October 9

Read Luke 17:5-10. Have you ever seen a mustard seed? They are really small and yet a mustard plant can grow into a great shrub – Matthew calls the mustard plant a tree! Jesus' illustration is that great things often come from small beginnings. What small beginnings stories do you know? I (Pastor Jack) remember being at a parishioner's home and she asked that I change a light bulb for her. It was a simple task and I was glad to do it. That evening I shared that story with a Bible Study and from the following conversation, an entire ministry was developed that helps Senior Citizens with simple tasks around the house. The ministry became so big that the administrative tasks were taken over by the city! Think of the humble beginnings of some efforts you have been a part of and write your thoughts here.