

Three Powerful Gifts.

The Church and Its Sacraments



SERMON NOTES

Week 1 June 16, 2024

“The Purpose and Power of the Church”

Matthew 5:14-16, 9:35, 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 12:27

I. *Ecclesia*

- A. *Ecclesia* is to be called _____.
- B. Jesus started the _____, it was his idea and he wants his followers to be part of it.
- C. The word “church” comes from the German word *Kirche* which means “The Lord’s house” or “Belonging to the _____.”

II. *Koinonia*

- A. *Koinonia* means _____, sharing in, participating with, partnership or communing.
- B. When we are Christ’s family, we are called to _____ for one another.
- C. The Surgeon General’s report says that _____ connection is needed to overcome the epidemic of loneliness and isolation.

III. The Body of Christ

- A. The church puts flesh on _____ today.
- B. The will of the Lord is that we go out and look for the people who are _____.
- C. We find *Koinonia* and Jesus’ will when we go out with other people to _____ in the community.
- D. We are meant to be a city set upon a hill that can’t be _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 17-22, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi famously said “Gentlemen, this is a football!” during the first day of training camp. He was not trying to be funny; he was stressing that fundamentals are important. Sometimes we have attended church for so long we lose focus on what the purpose of the church is.

Monday: Matthew 16:13-18, 18:15-20

Scholar N. T. Wright observed, “Jesus isn’t going to build an actual city, or an actual Temple. He is going to build a community, consisting of all those who give allegiance to him as God’s anointed king.” * Jesus said Deuteronomy’s rule to avoid unverifiable accusations was vital to making his church a true community, not just a hall where isolated people watch a performance. How can you make integrity a central value as you are an active member of Jesus’ community?

Tuesday: John 13:31-35, 15:8-17

Jesus began John 15:9 with ten keywords: “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you.” Just as the moon reflects the sun’s light, our love for others reflects God’s love for us. In what practical ways do you live out your commitment to love God and others? To what extent are you able to view self-giving, not self-gratification, as the key to the kind of love that makes life genuinely worth living? How can Asbury Church be, above all, a living model of God’s love for all people?

Wednesday: Psalm 32:1-7, 11; Psalm 116:13-14, 17-19

At church, we too often try to put on a (falsely) flawless face. Dr. Don Williams wrote, “What would happen in the church if we would all introduce ourselves, ‘I’m Don, I’m a sinner’? The pretense would be gone, and we would be blessed.” ** How might it deepen your commitment to God and heal you inwardly to be honestly vulnerable in a trusted community as the writer of Psalm 32 was?

Thursday: Galatians 6:1-10

The “family” image of the church matters deeply. “The idea of the church as a family comes with responsibilities: families care for one another, work for the good of one other, and support one another. In that same epistle, Paul instructed the members of these newly formed churches, ‘Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ’ (Galatians 6:2).” *** What are some ways your church helps you to carry the burdens of other “family” members?

Friday: Matthew 9:35-38, 1 Corinthians 12:24-27

Jesus yearned for God to “send out workers into his harvest field.” To what extent do you think “troubled and helpless...sheep without a shepherd” expresses the spiritual state of neighbors, coworkers, and even some people you know in church? Are you willing to become one of the workers Jesus wished for? What abilities and resources has God given you that you can use to help reach troubled, helpless people with the good news of Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

The Church is not a building or location, it is the people, the *Ecclesia* of Jesus. And the people of Jesus are called to be in community with one another and care for one another. But there is more to being the church than just caring for ourselves. We are called to go out into the world, as the body of Christ, and make this world more like the Kingdom of God.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) out, B) church, C) Lord. IIA) fellowship, B) care, IIC) social. IIIA) Jesus, B) hurting, C) serve, D) hidden.

* Wright, N. T., Matthew for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 16-28 (The New Testament for Everyone) (p. 7). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, Kindle Edition.

** Don Williams, The Preacher’s Commentary Series, Volume 13: Psalms 1–72. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986, p. 255.

*** Hamilton, Adam, Creed: What Christians Believe and Why (p. 113). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.