



NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ON THE NEXT PAGE

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 15-20, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

The movie “Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves” centers around a bard named Edgin who sought a special tablet that could bring his wife back from the dead. Surrounded by a cast of characters – each with their own abilities – Edgin rediscovers his purpose. Just like the group this film is centered around, the body of Christ comes with its own sea of people with unique talents and abilities; each of which is needed to fulfill a mission.

Monday: Galatians 6:9-10

Particularly in times of divisiveness – like the tumultuous season we’re currently in leading up to a presidential election – it can feel defeating to attempt to “do good”... particularly to “all people” (not just those who are like us). How does the promise this verse spells out – “a harvest” that lay ahead – motivate you to continue doing good deeds, even when they feel as though they’re not making an impact?

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

The author of this letter to the Corinthians paints a picture of the vital importance of each person – each part – of the body of Christ. Take a moment to consider how the parts of your body work together to form one whole “you.” What do you take for granted about the way your body keeps you alive? Now extend the analogy to the body of Christ, the church: what types of people do you take for granted in the life of the church? How can you foster a greater appreciation for them?

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:15-16

Continuing the analogy we began to explore yesterday, the author of this letter to the people in the city of Corinth questions what would happen if a person would believe themselves to be unworthy of being part of the church because they don’t have the same role, talents, or gifts as someone else. Have you ever felt this way? What helped you to realize your importance in the context of the church? How can you extend what you learned to help others understand their own importance in the body?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Closing out the metaphor - the passage on the distinct but vital roles of people in the body of Christ – the author writes “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” What does it mean to you that you – no matter who you have been or who are you – belong?

Friday: John 11:25-26

Jesus has just raised his friend Lazarus from the dead when he says these words to Lazarus’ sister, Martha: “I am the resurrection and the life.” But he doesn’t end with a statement... he poses a question: “Do you believe this?” Faith doesn’t exist because Jesus said so; it exists when you believe what Jesus claimed. Do you believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life? What makes believing easy? What makes it difficult? Are you only allowed to be part of the “body” if your faith is absolutely unwavering?

MOVING FORWARD

You may not think, act, share the same mindset as, or possess the same skill set as the person who sits in the pew next to you, but all of us are needed to carry out the mission of the church. Take time this week to consider your own place; and how you can help to bring out the unique “powers” of those who may be different from you – but who are equally important in “being the church.”