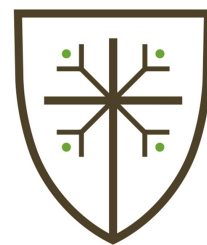


Hospitality Eternity Worship Mission

ESSENTIAL EMPHASES

FALL SERMON SERIES

SERMON NOTES



November 20, 2022

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Essential Emphases: Mission

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Genesis 12:1-9
Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16
Luke 9:24-25, 28-36

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways in which you have “grown into maturity and Christ-likeness” that the Lord uses (or could use) to grow His Church?
2. Often, as it was with Abraham, God’s call to go out and expand the places of His worship is a call to something uncomfortable and strange. In your life, has there been a time (or perhaps currently) when God has made this kind of call on your life?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Today Josh concluded our four-part series on Essential Emphases of the Church with Mission. The mission of the Church is three-fold – to expand, to grow, and to bless.

Expand

Our Old Testament reading today was about Abraham. Abraham was given a call by God to go out from his home, his land, to claim new places for the name of God, where people can be close to God, to expand the worship of God. Every place that Abraham goes, he builds an altar, a place of sacrifice and worship.

The Gospel reading today was the story of Jesus’ mountaintop transfiguration. On that mountain, Moses and Elijah appear. And Jesus talks with them, literally, as Josh told us, about his “exodus.” Jesus leads God’s people out of slavery to sin by becoming the true Passover lamb. And like Abraham’s altars, every sacrifice on every mountain before and after points to Jesus as it’s true object. And we, like Abraham, are called to go out to expand the places that point to Jesus, the mountain tops and altars that bring us closer to God.

Grow

Paul in Ephesians talks about growing into maturity and into Christ-likeness. Just as God equipped Abraham for the call given to him, Christ also equips his saints for the work of mission given to them. You are Christ’s gift to the church, not only your skills, giftings, talents, but also, your broken places that have been healed, the ways in which you have grown that help others to see God at work in their own lives. And when we are all joined together, we all grow up in Christ together in order that we might love others as Jesus loved us.

Bless

In Josh’s introduction, he spoke of the “i-generation” – that generation who is growing up never having known a time without smart phones. He pointed out that the “i” prefix and it’s prevalence, even to the extent of being a ubiquitous prefix, is a picture of what sin does. It’s all about “I” – and if we are blessed, it is solely for the purpose of blessing ourselves. But the mission of the church says, no, rather, we are blessed in order that we might bless others. You will only find your life in giving it away. God calls us to take all that with which he has blessed us in order to be a blessing to others.