

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday April 19, 2020 "Forward: How to be aware of wonder and grow a holy curiosity."

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

II Sunday.

And then it was five...five Sundays of missing you, and streaming our services in front of an empty auditorium. But to an ever increasing larger group of worshippers in spirit. No sense going over this again and again, but we'll most likely be doing this for a while. We're committed for the long haul, and we'll continue to do all we can to be your church. So...just to touch base.

How ya' doin'? (Said in our best gangster voice).

Are you learning anything about yourself?

What is one thing you miss?

What is one thing you don't miss?

Ok...now to the message. We began to flesh out this theme of; *"Forward: living life of meaning and purpose"*, and started at that beginning place of creating a life desiring and nurturing holy wonder and awe. The overall purpose of this series was originally designed to be a conversation about the life that God wants for us. There have been several studies, and TED talks about the pursuit of happiness. The four elements/pillars that sociologists have discovered that create a happy life are; **Belonging**, (to be accepted for who we are), **Transcendence**, (experiencing moments that are bigger than our physical world), **Storytelling**, (to be able to tell a meaningful narrative about our life), and **Purpose**, (living a life that matters and has impact). If you can get that final one, **purpose**, right, then the other three will follow.

What we're saying is, living this forward life, a life of purpose, has to start at a place where we nurture and grow a sense of curiosity. Our nature is to slip or drift into 'settledness'. We want things to make sense, fit into our worldview. Basically we want answers more than we want questions. But in the life of Jesus, we see someone who constantly asked questions. And not "yes" or "no" questions but; "what do you think?", "how do you engage this?" type questions. Ones that won't let us just stay disconnected in our wrestling with important issues. Jesus wouldn't let people stay at a distance and feel like they were in. He pulled others in to make them rethink and consider things in new and different ways. We're calling this a '**holy curiosity**'. And it's the first step in growing a life that God can use to do amazing things.

So...what are you curious about?

Where do you feel settled?

The passage this morning is an interesting and somewhat familiar one. Go ahead and read **Mark 5:24-34** and we'll pull some things out of it.

What jumped out to you about this passage?

What did it reveal to you about the importance of pushing past your discomfort?

This is such an interesting story. Have you ever had to battle the same thing for 12 years? Can you imagine being stuck in this 'shelter in place' for 12 years? What do you think kept this woman going? There were just two things Kal pulled out of this passage to help us not only push past our tendency to seek comfort over everything else, but also to cultivate a life of holy curiosity.

Two things from her courage that can help us live a life of holy curiosity.

1. To not settle. (Don't give up).

This woman exhibits courage we don't see in the followers of Jesus. This woman had been battling this for 12 years, and it said she had tried EVERYTHING. And even though she hadn't found a solution, any relief, she had not given up. She had not just accepted; *"this is how it's just going to have to be"*. This is so hard to do. We like settled, understood, sameness. It's easier than the perpetual push and searching. That's why this thing, Coronavirus, is so disturbing. In our routine, most everything worked the same way, and we're used to. Now everything has been upended, having to rethink, or in some cases actually THINK, to get things done.

Where do you see your tendency to settle? What fuels that?

2. To be sensitive and chase those 'promptings' towards curiosity you feel.

In spite of never finding any relief; ***She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed."***

She didn't know for sure, there was no certainty here. This could have as easily not worked either. After 12 years of nothing else working, it would probably just be another thing that didn't work. But...what the heck. She had heard some things, there might be a possibility, there was this question in her spirit that the things she had heard might be true, so what does it hurt to take the chance.

Was there a time you felt you followed an unknown prompting to pursue something new?

What fueled that?

III Challenge.

To live this FORWARD life, **pursue wonder and awe**, test those things you feel curious about.

1. Lean into the discomfort of your questions and your curiosity and pursue them.

2. Curiosity requires us to push against our desire for settledness. It's going to make us question and challenge things we thought were fixed or secure. People who live FORWARD lives are people who don't succumb to settled people.

You have the unique opportunity during this time to redesign your life.

Who do you want to be on the other side of it and what will that take?