

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday August 30, 2020 "Invitation to a Journey: the road to self-discovery".

We are more than a number. Finding our divine self.

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this Sunday. Whether you were able to watch the live stream 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.

We're still gathering in person. A small but dedicated group who follow all the guidelines and were so encouraging with your love and presence gathered with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We still are your church family and if there is ANYTHING you need, prayer, ideas or suggestions you have, please pass them our way. We feel just as isolated as you, and we want to maintain that connection with each of you.

II Sunday.

We hit our fifth and final Sunday in our Enneagram series. About time right? Even though we kind of did a deep dive into the Enneagram, just know there is so much more out there that can help you understand how you're wired. To grow even more of an awareness of what it's like to experience you. All those messages and companion studies are available where you found this one. To help you build your understanding. I've also reposted extra content at the bottom of this devotion.

Sunday we finished up the series, but turned the corner to talk about living beyond just being a number. We admitted that the world needs people who can step up and do great things. And we are called to live this epic life, fully into our divine uniqueness, so we can be those agents of change. But it takes some very specific actions on our part, after we commit to living a life growing an awareness of self, to become this person that can change the world.

There will be a lot of scripture as we hit each of these specific points. So buckle up...here we go.

The first scripture was **Luke 9:23-27**, and was the jumping off point for this final Sunday. Read that passage and then answer a couple of questions.

What jumped out to you from this passage?

What did it say to you about what it takes to live this life we are called to live? List some of those specific things.

Kal pulled three truths from this passage that are an essential part of taking this growing understanding of our uniqueness and doing great things with it.

1. Have to want something more.

Jesus said; ***"IF you want to be a follower"***. Jesus wasn't forcing this new kingdom of God and eternal life on others. His teaching began with this phrase. This is where a bigger life has to begin. Until you

genuinely 'want to' you won't. Using this growing understanding of our uniqueness and how we can be a part of great things, has to start with the desire to want to be a part of great things.

Jesus added to the understanding of what it means to want more out of life later in **Luke 14:25-27**.

Read this passage and consider how it fits into living into our divine uniqueness.

So, what often gets in our way in wanting more out of life?

What do we need to do to up our 'wanting to'?

How can we understand the difference between responsibilities, (things we need to take care of), and excuses we use to keep from stepping out?

2. Die to self. Desires, and attachments.

The second truth of living this bigger, more meaningful, eternal life, is the decision to change the way you live. After you decide you want to live this kind of life, you have to begin letting go of, and scraping off the things that we all hang onto. And eventually will hold on to us. The things of the world almost seem to be alive reaching out to us. And this isn't a one time event. Learning to let go, to detach from unimportant things, is a continual work. That's why we are helped by a deep understanding of how we're wired. The passage used to describe this work is found in **Hebrews 12:1-2**. Read this passage and then use the questions to do some introspective work.

So, what entangles you?

What things do you tend to hold on to, or even have a hold on you, that keep you from living this life we're called to live?

What habits or practices have you found help untangle you?

3. Develop a plan/strategy for growth.

This is the last and most important step. If you want more out of life, if you're willing to die to your own ego and desires, you have to answer this question. **What is your plan?**

No one gets to where they want to go accidentally. To become the person you want to become, you have to know what you need to do to get there. So the purpose of this entire series was to grow an understanding of your inner self, and then use that knowledge to live this epic life.

And continuing the passage in Luke from the first point read this. **Luke 14:28-33**. Read the rest of this passage, and answer the following questions.

What is the most difficult thing in putting a plan in place?

What have you found helps you to do the things you need to do to work a plan?

III Challenge.

Wrapping this all up, our ultimate goal is not just discovering who we are. That's not a worthy ultimate goal. The real purpose once we discover more about who we are, we are called to live a life changing our world because of our willingness to do good with this knowledge.

So, for each of you.

- 2's continue to be those people who love and give for the benefit of others.**
- 3's continue to be those people who get important things done.**
- 4's continue to be those people who give so much beauty to the world.**
- 5's continue to be those people who discover great new things.**
- 6's continue to be those people who champion diversity and bring others together.**
- 7's continue to be those people who bring light and show us how to experience joy.**
- 8's continue to be those people who stand up for others and fight the good fight.**
- 9's continue to be those people who create safe places of peace for us to rest.**
- 1's continue to be those people who see the best in us and lead us to achieve it.**

We need what each of you, with your specific skills and talents, bring to our church, our community, your world around you, and the entire world. We have to be aware of when those unique things about us add to the greater good, and when the more unhealthy side of those rise up and do harm. The goal here was to inspire the desire to grow your self-awareness, and then use that knowledge and understanding of who you are, to be a better you in your world. So, continue to grow, to learn about yourself, and to be the best force for good in your world.

Suggested content.

There is an abundance of information on the Enneagram. Here are a few places to start.

Books.

- "The Road Back to You"*. Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile.
- "The Enneagram; A Christian Perspective"*. Richard Rohr.
- "The Complete Enneagram"*. Beatrice Chestnut.

Websites.

- beatricechestnut.com/the-enneagram
- www.enneagraminstitute.com
- truity.com/test/enneagram-personality-test