

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday January 27, 2019. "I Love My Church: Going".

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru 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 in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Recap.

We hit our final Sunday of our NCC vision series on our values of; Gathering, Growing, Going. Over the past three weeks we took a deep dive into each of those words, hopefully drawing out of them an understanding that can help us practice, individually and corporately, what it means to live fully for Jesus and to be invested in the larger community of NCC.

We discovered that Gathering gains us power. Not Kratos as the world uses power with force and coercion. But Dunamis, a supernatural irresistible presence of God...light.

Last week, we talked about how Growing gains us authority. Even if we don't have the official title, we can cultivate what was described as moral authority. Our words will have weight and impact, because of the person we are Growing to become.

Then Sunday we talked about Going. Jesus sent his disciples out, even before they were ready, because when he looked out on the world, Jesus saw that the people were *"harassed and helpless...and he had compassion on them"*.

As just a recap re-engage those first two values.

What did you gain in understanding or practice about Gathering?

What did you gain in understanding or practice about Growing?

C. Sunday.

We've been using **Matthew 10:1-4a** as the series passage, to talk about Gathering, Growing and Going. It was the verses leading up to this passage that were used Sunday to help us understand the *"why?"* to our Going. So, go ahead and read **Matthew 9:35-38**.

A few questions.

What spoke to you about this passage?

If you're familiar with this passage, did you notice anything new?

There were two points brought up about this passage. And if we are to Go, and Go well, we have to learn what these two things mean.

1. Compassion- defined as *"suffering with"* or entering into someone else's struggle.

What does compassion look like in action for you?

2. Harassed and helpless- defined as those who are victims because they do not have the power or authority to affect their own lives.

Who are the harassed and helpless in our world? How does this happen?

And what makes the practice of Going so difficult? Be honest. Going is genuinely hard.

D. How to grow compassion.

In the conclusion of the message, there were 5 specific understandings and practices that if put into place, would grow compassion within each of us. Here is the wrap up of those 5 things.

1. Compassion for others will grow when you can show compassion to yourself.

That is why Jesus said we MUST love others out of our learning to love ourselves.

2. Compassion for others will grow when you reveal what suppresses compassion within you.

Our culture and society is set up as hyper-competitive to win. And in order to grow compassion, we have to recognize it, and not allow those things to determine how we view and treat others.

3. Compassion for others will grow when you begin to realize most of what you have is from people and organizations that poured into you.

You do not have what you have, or are what you are, because you're so awesome. We are the product of all of the people who poured themselves into our lives. Who showed us compassion.

4. Compassion for others will grow when you see that each person is actually the temple of God. God lives in EVERY person you come across and those you don't.

When we figure out we treat others the same way we want our people to treat the people close to us. Then we get what God is about...KINDNESS.

5. Compassion will grow when you can hear someone's story rather than impose yours on them.

We are all different. And true humility recognizes; *"if I grew up like you did, then I would most likely be you"*.

The final statement; ***Going gains us influence***. The right and ability to impact the world around us.

And Going was defined as: using the 'power' and 'authority' Jesus gave to his disciples, to be used for the benefit of those who are powerless and have no authority. We become advocates, voices for, and enter into their struggles and suffering and use our power and authority for good...for their good.

Final challenges of this series.

So...how can you do this, feel compassion and Go, personally?

How would you like to see NCC do this?

How and what could you contribute in NCC doing this more powerfully?