

## AFRAID 04: "Commitment or Comfort?"

November 26, 2023

### Psalm 23:1-4 & Ephesians 4:11-12

**Main Idea:** We miss out on the joy of serving because we fear commitment and inconvenience.

#### Committed...to what???

A coach once demanded commitment from his team's players. When he asked what commitment looked like, his players struggled to explain the concept. He used an analogy of a breakfast plate of bacon and eggs. He said it was simple. In the breakfast, the chicken that supplied the eggs was involved, but the pig that supplied the bacon was committed.

Our lives are not dissimilar. We want to take part in things that we enjoy, but we fear jumping in too far. We fear having "skin in the game" so to speak...like the pig. That's too much involvement. It's especially too much involvement for church. However, we will get extravagantly involved in other things. If we watch a TV series, we will take on new personality traits because we identify with a character in a show. Ask a Yellowstone fan... Or check out the statistics from the National Institute of Health or Social Security Administration regarding retirement and death. People are SO committed to their jobs that there are links between retirement ages and death!

We are committed to what we WANT to be committed to and avoid commitment when we think it may cause us inconvenience. Commitment often leads to purpose, satisfaction, and sincere joy. Commitment shouldn't be avoided.

#### To the Book:

1. **Ephesians 4:11** – Paul wrote this to a church to encourage them to stick together and work together. He had established the unity the Christians have in Christ and then started listing a series of church "leaders." While Christ is the ultimate leader of the church, these people have a purpose for commitment in the church. Their purpose is to set examples and make sure that the people who make up the bulk of the church are set up and prepared to successfully minister to those around them both in and out of the church.
2. **v. 12** – Here is where the bulk of the church comes into picture. The work that all of those people accomplish that Paul listed at first is really for the people. This is where the rubber meets the road. There is the list of church leaders but who is not listed in verse 12 is important. It's the bakers, roofers, bankers, carpenters, taxi drivers, schoolteachers, farmers, businessmen, chefs, nurses, dentists and the list goes on and on. There are FAR more of those people than there are ministers of the various sorts. The light that those people shine for one another and for those outside of the church that make Jesus compelling is much brighter than it would be without them. For the church to make the most impact that it could, YOU ARE NEEDED!!!

#### Family Night Big idea – Read Acts 20:35

Serving others is not only something that we should do, but it is something that when we engage, we often find that we get so much ourselves.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Since we are in the holiday season, what is something you can do to give to those who have less than we do or have needs?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why do you think that it is better to give than to receive? What is it about sacrifice, kindness and care towards others that gives us a sense of success, pride, or accomplishment?"

**Prayer** "Lord, we know you want us to help others. When we help others, we have a chance to be like you and show others why we are committed to following you. Help us see opportunities to serve and give us the courage to engage those opportunities when we see them. Amen."

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Meet at the church this Wednesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Gravity:** No Gravity today.

#### Today's Songs

*Holy is the Lord*.....Chris Tomlin

*I Speak Jesus*.....Charity Gayle

*Jesus Does*.....We the Kingdom

#### Kenya Correspondence

You can now correspond with the student you sponsored. There is a mailbox in the hallway for your letters, cards, and pictures. Everything needs to be flat and 11x14 or smaller. We will send to Kenya monthly.

#### GCC Christmas Gift List

Tell a staff member of any family you know that would welcome gifts this year.

#### Women's Mentoring Program Meeting

TODAY between the services in the Community Room.

#### Deck the Halls

Next Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30pm. Velocity Youth and KidsJAMMers will decorate Gingerbread Houses and watch the movie, "Klaus". Kids wear pajamas and bring sleeping bags. Bring money for the Concession Stand. Everyone gets their picture made at the photo booth to hang on the Christmas Tree in the Lobby. Come join us!