

death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ and is continued within each of us. How has your life been transformed through your relationship with God through Jesus the Christ? What cost did you bear for that transformation in your life? Pray for God's wisdom and write your thoughts here.

### **Thursday, June 11**

Read Luke 14:27-35 paying close attention to the two very brief parables Jesus shares. The parables make the point that we shouldn't begin what we can't finish. Certainly God did not enter into a redemptive process without being prepared to complete it. Jesus entered into that same plan for redemption and saw it through.

As we plan for a worship service for others in the communities in which we live, work and play, what would imagine the cost would be to our church? What cost would you personally bear for this new service to begin? Is there too high a cost for that worship experience if it brought others into a life-saving relationship with God? Meditate on these questions and write your response here.

### **Friday, June 12**

Read once again Luke 14:27-35. This time linger on the words from verses 34 and 35. Salt is symbolic of influence, of changing others and preserving our relationships with God and others. Once saltiness is lost, it cannot be restored. The message is clear from Jesus as he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" There comes a time to make a decision to seek change and make a difference in the lives of others; the time for that decision is now. What can you do? Write your thoughts here.

## Message Notes – June 7, 2020

### *The Right Plan\**

- I. There's an old joke about \_\_\_\_\_ in the church that says, "The only people who want \_\_\_\_\_ in the church are the babies in the nursery."
  - A. Change is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. It was once a venerable endeavor to be an "\_\_\_\_\_ of change" in congregations and communities.
  - C. That was followed by a model of leadership in which the leader was in \_\_\_\_\_ within the community and lead by example.
  - D. More recently, the leader is to cast the \_\_\_\_\_ and then enlist the community to follow in efforts to fulfill that mission.
  - E. Now there's talk about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - F. And still change is \_\_\_\_\_!
- II. There are many scripture passages that deal with change and priorities which shouldn't really surprise us, since following Jesus is all about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Think of Paul's counsel, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by the renewing of your minds.
  - B. Jesus confirmed what I will now say for the fifth time, change is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to anything we do or not do.
  - D. The two parables Jesus shares might be called \_\_\_\_\_ at work and at war.
    1. The message is simple, we don't start what we can't \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. God did not enter into a \_\_\_\_\_ process without being prepared to complete it.
- III. So as we move forward toward the right plan for a new worship experience, I want us to consider the \_\_\_\_\_.

---

\*Luke 14:27-35

- A. I pledge to you that I and our church leadership will tend to the process of \_\_\_\_\_ that naturally accompanies change.
- B. Our \_\_\_\_\_ in creating a new worship service isn't just about creating a new worship service.
- C. Evangelism trainer and coach, Jim Griffith teaches that churches no longer "\_\_\_\_\_ " new people.
  - 1. The fact is that worship services and churches grow by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. Cathy Townley wrote, "To grow your church, the mission field must become \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel message and in their own \_\_\_\_\_ journey."

- IV. Jose Luis Casal, wrote, "Recently, I saw the Cuban film *Last Days in Havana* where one of the characters, a 15-year-old pregnant teenager, declared in a monologue at the end of the film, "My fear is not that the world may be ended, but that the world will \_\_\_\_\_ like it is."
  - A. "God intervenes in human history and breaks time to tell us that "another world is \_\_\_\_\_."
  - B. Change is difficult. God knows this. It took the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus the Christ to make that statement in the most \_\_\_\_\_ way.
  - C. The only question that remains is "Will \_\_\_ pick up the cross?"

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, June 8**

Let's talk change!! What do you think of when you think of the word change? What images comes to mind? What do you think of when you hear the words "change" and "church?" Take some

time to think about change in the church and write your thoughts here.

### **Tuesday, June 9**

In the message on Sunday, Pastor Jack spoke about a few different approaches to leadership. From authoritative ("top down") approaches to more collegial approaches, various leadership styles have come in and out of acceptance and practice throughout the years. What type of leadership style do you find most helpful and beneficial to an organization? What other styles of leadership have you experienced and identify? What would call your leadership style?

Despite the differences in leadership styles over the years, change still remains a difficult topic to discuss and process to lead. The real issue is effectively dealing with the grief over losing something; no change happens without having to give up something – a specific method, a loss of old roles or even the loss of the organization that is seeking change. Do you see the connection between change and grief? How have you grieved (or not grieved) as you have experienced change through your years? Write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, June 10**

Read Luke 14:27-35. Much of faith and being a disciple of Jesus is about transformation; we seek to be better stewards of what God has given us and as we seek to follow Jesus, we try to become the people God created us to be. This transformation of our lives has a cost; a cost that is paid in our dedication to change, through developing priorities and aligning ourselves with Jesus' teaching and mission. It is a redemptive process that God began since the beginning of creation, is founded in the life, teachings,