

recognize your competency? Give these questions careful attention and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, September 6

The third question Father Himes encourages us to ask when considering our gifts and talents involves the benefit we provide others. The third and final question Professor Hime asks “Is this role or work of genuine service to others and to the wider society?” or more simply, “Does anyone want you to do it?”

Pastor Jack has mentioned more than once a simple definition of ministry; ministry is the intersection of our abilities with the needs of others. Does what you do meet the needs of others? Do people seek you out asking you to share your gifts and talents? Can you easily identify the needs you are meeting? In our church and wider community? In your neighborhood or work? In your relationships with friends and family? Write your thoughts here as you ask for God’s guidance in using your gifts and talents.

Friday, September 7

Read Luke 21:25-36. The purpose of reading this passage of scripture is to remember the urgency in sharing our gifts and talents so that other lives are impacted in positive and life-giving ways. Pastor Jack quoted Friedrich Nietzsche who said, “He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.” What is your why? Just as we are motivated by God’s love to be in relationship with God, it is our prayer that love is your motivation in using your gifts and talents for the “common good.” Again, what is your why? Write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – September 6, 2020

Our Calling for Service and Work*

- I. To be called for service and work means to be _____ in some way that accomplishes God’s purposes on earth.
 - A. Paul tells us in the passage we read from his first letter to the Corinthians that he doesn’t want us to be _____ about how spiritual gifts work.
 - B. Another misconception about being called for service and work is that the gifts we acquire from God are about _____.
 1. Paul tells us up front that our gifts are for the purpose of presenting _____ to the world.
 2. God’s call to us is *for* _____ of neighbor and _____ *for* others.
 3. Our giftedness is for the greater good of the _____ of believers.

- II. Michael Himes is a Roman Catholic Priest, author and retired professor of church history from Boston College. Himes suggests that we _____ on three questions.
 - A. The first question: Is what you are doing a source of _____? Do you get a kick out of it?

 - B. The second questions to consider: Is it something that calls forth your gifts, engaging your abilities and _____ using them fully? Are you any good at it?
 1. Paul distinguishes between two kinds of _____.

*I Corinthians 12:1-11

The first kind is the universal gifts of faith,
_____, and charity.

2. The second kind of gift is charisms, which are particular and _____ to each person.

- C. The third and final question Professor Hime asks “Is this role or work of genuine service to _____ and to the wider society?” or simply, “Does anyone want you to do it?”

- III. Consider the _____ of the gifts and the abilities you possess and with which you are blessed.
 - A. Friedrich Nietzsche said, “He who has a why to live can bear almost any _____.”
 - B. Receive the _____ of your talent and abilities in order to be a _____ to others and you just may be the only representative of God another person will ever know.

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, September 3

Read I Corinthians 12:1-11. There is an innate intuition that tells us that to be called for service and work means to be gifted in some way that accomplishes God’s purposes on earth. Paul tells us that the abilities and talents with which we are gifted should be

used for the common good (Verse 7). What gifts and talents do you possess? Don’t be modest; after all, these are gifts that God has bestowed upon you and that you have developed.

Ask yourself these questions: Do you use your gifts and talents for God’s purposes? How might you better utilize your gifts and talents for the “common good?” Give thanks to God for the gifts you’ve received as you write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, September 4

Michael Himes is a Roman Catholic Priest, author and retired professor of church history from Boston College. Father Himes suggests that we reflect on three questions when considering our call for service and work. We will consider one of these questions each day for the next three days. The first question is: Is what you are doing a source of joy? In other words, do you get a kick out of it? Do you love what you do?

When considering this question you may want to distinguish between being happy and experiencing joy. Joy usually implies a deeper sense of contentment and satisfaction. So – do you get a kick out of what you do? For work? For the church? For others? For your family? Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, September 5

The second question that Father Himes ask us to answer when considering the use of our gifts and talents is whether or not it is something that calls forth your gifts, engaging your abilities and talents using them fully? Are you any good at it? Do you possess a certain competency in using your gifts and talents? Do you do what you do with excellence, diligence and care? Do others