

mission or ministry. As the light of the world, we are to make a difference in the lives of others. What needs, pains or hurts in our world move you to action? What breaks your heart? Where might God direct your attention in term of shining your light into the shadows of our world? Write your thoughts here.

Thursday, October 15

Read Romans 12:1, 6-8. God not only calls us to mission and ministry, God equips that call. In this passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, he lists several gifts that are useful in the world: Serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness and prophecy – all gifts that allow for us to be spiritual contributors in the world.

What gifts do you possess that would allow you to be in ministry in the world? Remember, ministry is the intersection of one person's need with the gift of another person. The list of gifts above is not exhaustive. You may want to consider your gifts, the training and education you've received, your passions and interests. Where might you gifts intersect with the needs of other? How has God equipped you? Record your answers here.

Friday, October 16

Read John 4:5-42. We've talked this week about having our needs met as opposed to meeting the needs of others. We've learned that is a matter of balancing those needs. Today consider the words of Jesus, "I have food to eat that you do not know about. My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work." This passage indicates that Jesus was fed in meeting the needs of others, fulfilling the work God sent him to do. The fact is a very critical need is met when we are using our gifts to meet the needs of others; the need to serve. Food for thought! Record your thoughts here.

Message Notes – October 11, 2020

Jesus and We – Spiritual Consumers or Contributors?*

- I. _____ is such a part of our culture and it has crept into the way we view the church.
 - A. It's not that you shouldn't have your needs met in and by your _____ church.
 1. The _____ is not an either/or proposition.
 2. Followers of Christ are not called to simply sit on the sideline but rather to _____ in the life of the church and in our world full of needs.
 - B. The issue is whether or not the church exists to meet its own needs or the needs of the _____. Are we spiritual consumers or spiritual contributors?
 - C. It's sort of human nature in our early life to be a consumer; you don't have to teach a two year old to be _____.
 - D. On the contrary, as we teach one another to be in _____, we learn about the needs of others and how together our needs can be met.

- II. Our scripture from John speaks to a much deeper, spiritual _____ within us; that is to connect with our God and others in meaningful ways, meeting their needs and experiencing the satisfaction of that spiritual _____.

- III. We are called to be spiritual contributors in the world and not spiritual consumers. Two things I want you to take away from this message.

*John 4:5-42

- A. First, we are _____ to be the church in the world.

- B. Second, God also _____ that call.

- C. Mission and ministry is the need of a person _____ with a gift of another.

- D. As a part of God’s people, God’s family – God has something for _____ to do!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional 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, October 12

The message began with a discussion of consumerism in our society and therefore in the church. When we look at the church through the lens of consumerism, we are focused on our needs being met primarily. It’s not wrong to have expectations about the church and certainly our members and friends have needs that can be met by the pastor, leadership and other members.

However, we are called as the church to meet the needs of the world. The question that we must ask of ourselves is, “Am I a Spiritual Consumer or a Spiritual Contributor?” If you were to put yourself on a scale of 1 (Total Consumer) to 10 (Fully Contributor), where would you fall on that spectrum? Remember, it doesn’t matter where you are as much as where you want to be. Think about this continuum, meditate on your view of the church and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, October 13

Read John 4:5-42. Yesterday, you were asked where you would be on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being a total consumer and 10 being fully a contributor. The church is a community through which we have our needs met as well as meeting the needs of the world. It is a matter of balancing our needs with the needs of the world. We also need to balance our needs with the needs of others in the church. This is where the church as family is important. We are there for one another not simply because there are times you meet the needs of others and there are times when you have need. We are there for one another because we love one another.

How are your needs being met through the church? How are you meeting the needs of others through the church? Meditate on these thoughts and write your response here.

Wednesday, October 14

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus called his followers, including us, the light of the world? We’re not to hide our light but rather let it shine so that the world will see our good words and glorify our God. We are to be engaged in our world of need. There are many ways through which we are called to be a light to the world, from the sharing of our financial resources, to serving in a particular