

Think of this by asking yourself, “What have I risked for the work of God in the world?” or “What have I risked or sacrificed so that the ministry of the church will be supported?” What risks have you witnessed others taking for the sake of being in the mission and ministry of the church? Consider these questions and write your thoughts here praying for God’s presence and guidance.

Thursday, October 8

The second truth about faith is that faith is not a guarantee. If you buy anything of value it seems that additional insurance is offered on that item. You buy an oven and you can spend another \$100 on a two year warranty – a one year extension on the existing manufacturer’s warranty. You know the drill.

When it comes to our faith, there is no guarantee. Guaranteeing that something will definitely happen is not faith. There’s no relying on God when you’ve guaranteed the results you’re looking for and then you have to ask the question is what you’re attempting to do big enough? The motivation for a relationship with God through Christ shouldn’t be that what we will experience is all flowers and rainbows. Meditate on these thoughts and write your own here.

Friday, October 9

Read Genesis 12. We read in Hebrew 11:8 that it was by faith that Abraham followed God’s guidance without knowing where he was going. The third truth about faith we’re considering is to step toward your greatest potential, you have to step away from your security. To truly trust in God’s guidance is to risk the security we know for the greater return of the mission and ministry of God being accomplished. What security are you clinging to that doesn’t allow you to move forward in what God is calling you to do? Write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – October 4, 2020

*Jesus and We – Faith-Filled, Big-Thinking**

- I. With what we have learned these past six months and with God’s _____ I believe we will emerge from 2020 to be as strong as ever.
 - A. But it will take some _____-filled, _____-thinking, bet the farm risk taking to make it work.
 - B. I want for us to be bold in ways that reflect the idea that we have already received God’s blessing and prepared to be Central Church in new and relevant ways.
- II. Our faith is not meant to be _____; it is personal, but it is not meant to be _____. We are _____ to share our faith with others.
 - A. Today, we’ve read two scriptures in which Jesus reacted to what was happening around him; that reaction was _____.
 - B. In the first passage from Mark we read about Jesus going to his _____ where he taught in the synagogue.
 1. Jesus wasn’t able to do much in Nazareth but heal a few _____ people
 2. He was “amazed at their _____.”
 - C. The second scripture we read today is from Luke’s gospel; we learn about a centurion, a _____ soldier, who has a slave who is sick.
 1. The centurion said, “only _____ the word and let my servant be healed.”
 2. This time Jesus was amazed by the Centurion’s _____.
 - D. Would Jesus be amazed at your _____ of faith or the _____ of your faith?

*Mark 6:1-6 and Luke 7:1-10

- III. Three simple _____ about faith.
- A. First, you cannot play it safe and _____ God.
- B. The second truth about faith is that faith is not a _____.
- C. The third and final truth about faith I want to share is to step toward your greatest potential, you have to step away from your _____.
- D. I want Jesus to look at us and be amazed – at our _____ faith

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 5

Read Psalm 8. Hopefully when you to read this beautiful Psalm, you feel a sense of peace and are thankful that we are made in God's image – the crowning glory of all creation. You may not feel peace as we've begun our annual Generosity Campaign. 2020 has been a tough year for so many. Today's devotion was

written on a day when it was announced that many are being fired from the airline industry. These are truly challenging days. If you're still reading this, I want you to know that God is mindful of you (verse 4) and loves you. Know that this year's Generosity Campaign is about partnering with Jesus to make a difference in the world – that may mean financial support, but it can also mean volunteering through our ministry or working in some other part of our community for the good of the community. Take a breath and know that whatever you do to support our ministry will be combined with others and together (Jesus and We), we can change our world with Christ's love. You may want to take a moment and reflect what your support of Central Church will mean for you, your family and the church.

Tuesday, October 6

Read Mark 6:1-6 and Luke 7:1-10. These are two stories about Jesus being amazed. In the Mark story, Jesus is amazed at the unbelief of those in his hometown. In Luke's narrative, Jesus is amazed at the faith of the Centurion; Jesus had never seen that depth of faith in all of Israel. The question Pastor Jack asked during the message is would Jesus be amazed at your lack of faith or the greatness of your faith. He suggested that you describe your faith on a scale of 1 (little faith) to 10 (great faith). There is no judgment here! This is simply a means to examine your faith and consider what it would take for your faith to grow. Consider where you are and where you'd like to be as we consider some truths about faith in the next three days. You can write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, October 7

Read Matthew 14:23-33. The first truth we considered during the message was you cannot play it safe and please God. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "without faith it is impossible to please God." We are called to take risks for our faith; this doesn't imply recklessness on our part but rather a trust in what God is trying to do in the world through his people.