

“Let’s not tear it . . .” a word of indifference. While they facilitated the execution of Jesus, they gambled for his tunic perhaps a means of turning away from their own cruelty.

So often when our words and actions hurt others, it’s not because we’re just horrible people; rather we weren’t thinking. We’re often thoughtless when we do such things; literally we are without thought. How often have we said, “I’m sorry. I just wasn’t thinking.”? Much of the time, our insensitivity is the result of being busy and preoccupied. Can you see how your words and actions might be words of indifference caused by your busyness and preoccupation? Meditate on this idea and write your thoughts here.

Thursday, March 11

There is a challenge issued through the message this week. It is a challenge to be mindful. Pastor Jack gave an assignment during his message; he asked that we Google the word mindfulness. Being mindful involves the process of being fully present and aware at specific times and places in our lives. The practice of mindfulness has its roots in meditation which allows us to quiet the voice within and become aware of our bodies and surroundings. If you decide to actually Google “mindfulness,” take some time to explore some meditation exercises that may enable you to begin a journey towards greater mindfulness. Write your reflections on this practice of mindfulness and any experiences you have in being more mindful.

Friday, March 12

Hopefully you had some time to at least think about the practice of being more mindful in your daily life. The spiritual practice of mindfulness involves meditation but it exists for the practical application of living life in tune with God’s purpose and guidance for your life as well as the needs of the world around you. Begin to seek mindfulness in your daily living. What needs of the world capture your attention and which you may seek to make a difference?

Message Notes – March 7, 2021

Words to the Cross – A Word of Indifference*

- I. Crucifixion was mean and dirty work with no element of redeeming _____.
 - A. The _____ selected for this work would have to stay at their post throughout the entire ordeal.
 - B. It was disgusting work but there was _____ for that work.
 1. The soldiers who facilitated crucifixions were give the _____ of the executed.
 2. In those days, a Jewish person typically wore _____ basic articles of clothing.
 3. Rather than tear the tunic into four useless pieces of cloth, the soldiers cast _____.
 - C. The indifference of the four soldiers was not only toward the man dying on the cross near to them but to the _____ and the _____ who were suffering in their own right.
- II. There is an ancient legend that Mary, Jesus’ mother wove the _____ tunic as a gift to her son.
 - A. It was a _____ of Jewish mothers in Jesus’ time to do such a thing.
 - B. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas wrote, “I wonder why they didn’t _____ the garment to Jesus’ mother?”
 1. He concludes that they were _____ men.
 2. I think the soldiers were there to do a task that was horrific; their walls of indifference led them through _____ action.
- III. So often when our words and actions hurt others, it’s not because we’re just horrible people; rather we weren’t _____.
 - A. Literally we are without _____.
 - B. Moments of preoccupation, thoughtlessness and

*John 19:23-27

indifference usually don't happen because we're _____.

C. It's not that we're _____; we're just too _____ trying to figure out how to handle life's "tunics" without tearing them.

IV. I've thought about how we can be less indifferent to the world, less _____ and thoughtless.

A. This is an issue of _____.

B. Here's an _____ for you today: Google the word mindfulness.

C. There are _____ books and self-help books, _____ books and meditation books; all involving the practice of mindfulness.

V. Mindfulness comes from Hindu and Buddhist _____ practices and involves the process of being fully _____ and aware at specific times and places in your life.

A. I could make a case that _____ taught mindfulness also.

B. When God is left out of our decisions, we risk at least the appearance of being _____ and heartless.

C. How often do we hold God in our hands; how often we hold love and life and beauty in our hands and we _____ it?

D. We have the ability to be the _____, the family of God, the living body of _____ in the world today; we hold that ability in our _____, our hearts, our minds and our _____. Don't miss it

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, March 8

As explained in the message, being part of an execution quaternion was a very undesirable assignment for Roman

Soldiers. It was tedious work because crucifixion was a slow and painful death. The soldiers would attempt to avoid this assignment in the first place and when they couldn't, they would try to pass the time with other preoccupations.

While we will never participate in such a task, we do avoid obligations by procrastinating or becoming preoccupied with other things. How do you avoid those things which you do not enjoy? What diversion have you created to avoid those tasks? Meditate on these questions and record your thoughts here.

Tuesday, March 9

Read John 19: 23-27. As we discovered yesterday, Roman soldiers found serving on an execution quaternion very undesirable. However, this assignment did provide some compensation, namely the soldiers were given the clothing of the executed to be divided among them. We read about the four soldiers who executed Jesus casting lots for the final article of Jesus' clothing. It was a practical way of maintaining the value of the tunic for which they gambled, and it was a way to pass the time and perhaps just for a moment, avoided the horror in which that participated.

The scene provided by John's gospel includes the detail that four women were also nearby the cross where Jesus was dying. Jesus' mother, Mary was there along with her sister, another woman named Mary as well as Mary from Magdala. The indifference demonstrated by the soldiers was not just to Jesus but to those women and the disciple, John. How would you imagine any interaction at all between the soldiers and the women? Although we are not told about any such interaction, do you think the soldiers even noticed the women and John? Meditate on this scene and these questions and write you reactions here.

Wednesday, March 10

Read John 19: 23-27. We've called the words of the soldiers,