

"My Focus"

Sermon Notes: Luke 4:4-20

Week 11 -- 2010

QUICK REVIEW – Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused, or caught your attention?

MY STORY:

- 1) Is there a time in your life when you saw a particular social need and were overwhelmed by it? What was it? What about it overwhelmed you? Were you able to help alleviate any of the concern?
- 2) Are you presently involved with a "helping agency?" If so, tell us a little about it and what your role is?
- 3) Has there been a time in your life when you have been in need of help? How did it make you feel? Why? How do you feel when 'acts of kindness' are extended to you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1) Christ's itinerant ministry began with a provocative summary that initiated a riot. People understood Jesus to be proclaiming Himself to be 'God' – the One to bring justice and healing to the land. This was more than what the people had anticipated with a coming Messiah. Instead of political prominence, Jesus pronounced Sacrificial Salvation. Why did people respond with such hostility to Jesus words? Read and discuss the rest of the story, Luke 4:22-30

2) Pastor Jerrold referred to God's 'economic development' plan. It was never realized. Read the passage, Deuteronomy 15:1-11 and consider the following questions: Are there elements of that plan that can pertain to our culture/situation today? What might they be? What warnings does Moses give that we need to listen to?

The New Testament also talks about meeting needs. What do the following passages encourage? What are their limitations?

1 John 3:17

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

Acts 4:34

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3) Sometimes we wonder what the Lord requires of us. We say, "I wish I knew what God wanted me to do?" Micah 6:8 is very specific. Consider each statement and ask: What does this mean? How does this impact my life? Which one do I have the most difficulty with?

"Do justice..."

"Love kindness..."

"Walk humbly with your God..."

TAKING IT HOME

1) We just considered the three behaviors Micah indicates that the Lord wants to see in our lives: doing justice; loving kindness, and walking humbly before God. Is there one that you would like the group to pray with you about?

2) Can you identify one action that you would like to practice that would help your exercise of mercy, demonstration of justice, or submission to God?

Growth Group Dates and Information

The Winter Semester Ends the week of March 21st. We want you all to enjoy a two-week break through Easter before our final semester.

Spring Semester begins the week of April 11th and continues until the week beginning June 13th. There will be opportunity on Sunday April 11 and 18 for new people to sign up for the last semester. Let us know if you have room for an additional one or two people.

The Growth Group Evaluation form is on the church web page. Please encourage your group members to fill it out. They are very helpful to us.

“My Focus”

Luke 4:14-21

When Christ presents His ‘mission statement’, He implies an invitation for our participation.

1. Our foundation rests on our relationship with God.

2. Called to preach Good News to the poor

a. Always have the poor

Matthew 26:11

b. Reflects a call for justice

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

3. To ‘preach’

a. Proclaim freedom for the prisoners

b. Recovery of sight to the blind

c. Release the oppressed

d. Proclaim the year of the Lord’s Favour

4. How are we doing?

Micah 6:8