

Seedling Group Questions for the sermon of March 17 – Second Sunday in Lent

The sermon for March 17 can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

Which animal best represents your personality? Why?

What kinds of experiences or scenarios typically make you feel vulnerable? Why?

Read Philippians 3:17—4:1

Paul encourages his congregation to imitate him and the others who've followed his example. In what ways is imitating someone an efficient or successful way to learn and grow in faith? Are there any problems with that approach?

What does Paul mean by "enemies of the cross of Christ"? What kinds of views and values in today's world might you identify as "enemies of the cross of Christ." Where do you encounter them? How do you handle them?

Read Luke 13:31-35

By leaving Herod (and Galilee) behind, Jesus' mission takes on a different objective. Explain how that mission changes as he looks toward Jerusalem. Why is this important to understanding Jesus?

Why are prophets so often rejected or killed, as they are in Jerusalem? Where are prophets and messengers of God's kingdom rejected today?

In what ways does Jesus offer shelter and protection?

Putting things together

Pastor Phillip says, *"There is always going to be this innate captivation with our supposed [human] invincibility, with this tendency toward individualism and self-sufficiency. We get enamored with our ability to go it alone and feel as though we've only 'made it' when we've severed the ropes and ties to the supporting things around us."* Where do you see this at play in the world today? In your own life? How has God's love countered that in your life?

How often do you think of God's nature as vulnerable or mothering? Do you think it's important to lift up those characteristics? Explain your answer.

Making it personal

Is there a particular saint's story (or notable Christian you know or have heard of) whose faith and witness you would like to emulate? Who is it and why?

How are you being called to gather under Jesus' wings? Does it involve a particular practice or ritual?

What might you change or do differently this Lent to repent of the tendency to "go it alone"?

Philippians 3:17--4:1

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13:31-35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"