

Seedling Group Questions for the week of October 27, 2019 – Reformation Sunday

The sermon for October 27 can be found at www.saidanotherway.org

Questions for opening up

Where do you prefer to sit in church for worship? Toward the front? On the back pew? Which side? What is the reason for your preferences (or lack of them)?

What did you work hardest at this week?

Read Psalm 84:1-7

What kinds of sensations and emotions does the psalmist have when he contemplates the Lord's Temple? What kinds of sensations and emotions do you have when you walk into a church sanctuary?

What effect does the group of worshippers (pilgrims to Jerusalem's Temple) have on the places they travel? What effect does our worship have on today's world?

What are the differences between private and corporate worship of God?

Read Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee and the tax collector were seen in Jesus day as foils of each other, people who occupied very different ends of the social and religious spectrum. Why would the start of this parable be so shocking?

Where have you experienced worship or prayer gather such different people? What happened?

What lessons about our prayer and worship attitude is Jesus teaching with this parable?

Putting things together

What thoughts do you have about the role of confession (and forgiveness) in worship?

Pastor Phillip says, *"There really is no part of Christian faith that involves comparing ourselves with others. There is no part of following Jesus that involves looking at my neighbor and setting myself against her in any way, good or bad, unless in so doing I find myself at her feet in service to her needs."* Are there times when personal comparison and contrast to a fellow believer might be helpful for growth in faith? Explain.

What questions do you think most people are asking or wondering about God these days?

Making it personal

What parts of worship or your faith life leave you feeling "justified" with God?

In what ways have you been able to answer people's questions about God and faith? In what ways do you struggle in this regard?

Psalm 84:1-7

¹How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord of hosts!

²My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.

⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁷They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Luke 18:9-14

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”