



A SERMON SERIES BASED ON FIRST PETER

OUTSTANDING OR JUST OUT...STANDING?

SERMON NOTES FOR MAY 24, 2020

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-11 (*The Message* *)

Guidelines for outstanding discipleship:

1. Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way!

2. Maintain an Attitude of Humility

3. Never Forget Why We Are Here

Some terms:

Elders (5:1 GK: *presbyteros*)= Experienced & wise

Shepherds (5:2 GK: *poimaino*)= Pastor

Overseers (5:2 GK: *episkopos*)= Bishop

* *The Message Bible* paraphrase. For a wide selection of Biblical versions and translations, go to www.biblegateway.com

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotionals for May 24-30

Monday, May 25 Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

In the sermon we explored the various meanings for the terms “elder,” “shepherd” and “overseer,” reminding us that at this point they described functions more than official titles. In what ways (and to whom) do you see yourself in the elder’s role? Another way to look at it is to ask what wisdom and experiences do you bring to the Body? _____

What ministry needs you and your care, input and oversight? _____

Tuesday, May 26 Read Psalm 68:1-10;32-35

Sometimes the militant language of the psalms seems strange to modern ears, but at the core is a song of total reliance on God and the reminder that God’s plans- for the world and for God’s People- are unstoppable. People of faith, then and now, trust God perhaps most especially when things are difficult. How does your life both offer praise and exhibit trust? _____

Where could this be stronger and how? _____

Wednesday, May 27 Read John 17:6-26

This prayer represents the final act of teaching and commissioning that Jesus offers during what we call the



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Last Supper. Look it over carefully. What is Jesus praying *for* the disciples? _____
 _____ What does this prayer offer *to* the disciples? _____
 _____ What is He warning the disciples about? _____
 _____ How are these offerings and points of focus still relative to your discipleship today?

Thursday, May 28 Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-5;12-18

The Corinthians church struggled with ideas about status, capabilities and the relative merits of members of the church. In both of his letters, Paul reminds them that ultimately we find our worth and function solely in our connection to Christ. In light of this, how would you explain v.12? _____

_____ Where are you being called to act and serve with boldness? _____ Are you? Why or why not? _____

Remember, the one excuse that won't stand is "I'm not able!"

Friday, May 29 Read Acts 1:6-14

Vv. 9-11 present a comical picture of the disciples staring heavenward and the angels having to give them a bit of a kick to get started on their mission. Isn't that very much like us? We spend an awful lot of time looking on, amazed and thankful, yes, but also stationary and passive. Where are you just standing around looking up and where will you take the initiative to be about your calling? _____

_____ What concrete steps do you need to take? _____
 _____ Discuss it with God in prayer today.

Saturday, May 30 Read John 21:15-22

It is often remarked how poignant this moment is as Jesus gives Peter a chance to redeem his earlier betrayal, but it is also a reminder of how our love for Jesus is to be acted upon. What 'sheep' are you being called upon to care for? _____ How will you do it? _____

Notice that what others might or might not be doing (as in Peter's reference to John in v.21) is irrelevant!



OUTSTANDING OR JUST OUT...STANDING? PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Being Living Stones (1 Peter 2:5) ...

Throughout this study we've explored Peter's guidance for churches living in a trying, often hostile world. In short he reminds us that we are to rise to the inevitable challenges, celebrate our call to be holy and impactful on the world around us and to see ourselves, individually and corporately as the church, as the primary conduits of God's Spirit at work in the world. But let's get down to personal specifics. What does that look like for you? Of course there are innumerable ways to answer this but as a start, let's look at the vows of membership we take when joining a United Methodist Church. All denominations use a variation of this but it might act as a good framework to on which to organize our priorities and activities. *Remember that all five are not optional.* Some aspect of each is a vital part of Christian discipleship. More importantly we are to step out into new challenges in each as well. As you reflect, ask God to show you the path God has for you as a crucial part of God's Holy Priesthood. Remember these are marching orders, not pablum for spectators!

I will serve God with my...

PRAYERS

- I pray and study scripture *daily*
- I make a point of praying for others and make a point of letting them know.
- I regularly practice spiritual disciplines like fasting, sabbath, solitude, self-denial, etc.

PRESENCE

- I attend corporate worship every Sunday unless sick or out of town.
- I am a *regular* member of a Sunday school, small group, prayer group, etc.
- I have an accountability partner with whom I meet regularly

GIFTS

- I tithe
- I regularly (and without reminders) contribute my labor. List some of the ways:

SERVICE

- I regularly offer my talents and time to strengthen the church's ministries. Circle as many as apply:
Instrumentalist, singer, A/V volunteer, office volunteer, grounds maintenance, lay speaker, altar guild/ decorations, art/visuals, IT/computer work, Other:

- I teach or help with (or am willing to) children and/or youth
- I regularly reach out to shut-ins, the hospitalized or those who have been absent.
- I am willing to lead a small group, home study group, on-line group or Bible study.
- I am willing to take on leadership roles within the church

WITNESS

- I regularly invite non-churched people to church, small group or fellowship activities
- I have consciously put together my witness story to share as God gives the opportunity.
- I am willing to be part of a missions project (Circle as applicable: locally, regionally, internationally)
- I am willing to lead and help coordinate outreach projects
- I am willing to be part of and develop programs of outreach and advertising for our church

Remember that this is not a complete list! Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to become more immersed in your discipleship. If some of the activities above represent something you feel called to do but are not doing, be sure you reach out to the pastor or other church leaders to help you get plugged in!