

Communion Service

1/27/19

This week's blog is really simple. I hope it is not simplistic.

This weekend we had our Annual Meeting and we celebrated communion together. Twenty-four years ago, as we had our first "Annual Meeting," we decided that was a good day to celebrate communion as a reminder to keep the main things the main things.

It is simple to articulate the main things, or at least what we think should be the main things in following Christ. But simply stating them can quickly become simplistic. Actually keeping them the main things is much more difficult. The paradox is that it is difficult to keep things simple. Our worlds are chaotic and complex. But Jesus has a way of cutting through all of that complexity and helping us see the simplicity of following Him.

I am reading a couple of great books by Zack Eswine. That name might well be unfamiliar to you, as it was to me. He was talking about Peter, and how Peter had great aspirations for doing great things for Jesus—just before the rooster's crow. Peter had to stew in that for a while, eating his crow. When Jesus came to Peter, He paired Peter back to the simple things. "Peter do you love me?" ([John 21](#))

He asked Peter to feed His sheep, but it was based on Peter's experience of loving Jesus. God has called us all to make disciples, but it becomes duty and chaos, even arrogance, if it is not based on the joy of loving and being loved by Jesus.

That seems pretty simple, doesn't it? It also requires a ruthless reality check. Are we serving Jesus, or are we serving our agendas that have a Jesus bumper sticker on them?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved Him? ([John 21](#))

2. Do we sometimes answer that question in simplistic ways?

3. Why might Jesus want to bore down below the surface of our answers?

4. How does **1 John** help us assess our answers and the reality of them?