FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES & SERMON TEXTS
NOVEMBER 22, 2026

IDENTIFY ONE CULTURAL VALUE THAT COMPETES WITH THE VALUES OF JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM - AND DO SOMETHING COUNTER CULTURAL:

- **If the world's habit is to accumulate more - give something away.**
- **If the world's habit is to seek recognition - serve someone anonymously.**
- **If the world's habit is to protect or increase your status - take the lowest position. Do something "beneath" you...**
- **If the world's habit is to demand your rights - practice generosity.**
- **If the world's habit is to pursue comfort - embrace sacrificial love.**
- **If the world's habit is to seek control - practice humility.**

A TEXT FOR MEDITATION: JEREMIAH 22:15-17

15 "Does it make you a king
to have more and more cedar?
Did not your father have food and drink?
He did what was right and just,
so all went well with him.
16 He defended the cause of the poor and needy,
and so all went well.
Is that not what it means to know me?"
declares the Lord.
17 "But your eyes and your heart
are set only on dishonest gain,
on shedding innocent blood
and on oppression and extortion."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. **If someone were to evaluate my belief in Jesus as the Messiah based on observing how I treat other people, what would they conclude?**
2. **How does my understanding of God change when I consider that defending the poor and needy is evidence of knowing him?**
3. **What might God want to change about the way I understand what it means to be faithful?**