

“If the World Were a Village”

Based from a book written by – David J. Smith
Lisa Crismore – December 26, 2021

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

You will find in your bulletins a quiz for our sermon today. This is not for a grade only for your information. We have spent this Advent and now Christmas season about making room in our lives for Christ. Like the innkeeper in Bethlehem, we are challenged to think outside the box and think of ways we use our resources to make room for the Holy. For our time today, I thought it would help spark some of our imaginations by looking at the world by looking at the book “If the World Were a Village” by David J. Smith; originally published 2002 – Second Edition 2011 – Updated August 2019; Kids Can Press Ltd.

Before we dive into the book, I wanted to talk about our text today from Colossians. Paul is writing this letter to the church in Colossae and telling them how to live out their lives as followers of Jesus Christ. It was important for Paul to urge people to have a loving relationship with Christ but it was just as important to have a loving relationship with each other in the community. How do we do this? Paul says clothe yourself with Christ by showing compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and above all love. Love is the glue that holds everything together so that we live together in harmony.

Have you ever thought about your clothes and what you wear? Someone asked me the other day about my wardrobe and what do I think about when I buy my clothes. The answer was simply fun. I like fun clothes and color. My children will say, “Oh mom, that looks like you!” I am not sure exactly what that means. I think it means that when they see a certain article of clothing that looks like me that it reminds them of me.

But, what if we all think about what we wear as something coming from Jesus. I don't think Paul is thinking about shirts, pants, dresses or socks. It is about putting on the things that Christ desires of us and wearing it close to our bodies as though it becomes part of us. It goes with us wherever we go. It is with us in the darkness and the light; it is with us in the bad and the good; it is with us in the pain and in the sorrow; it is with us in anger and laughter. It is always with us. So that whatever we do in word or deed, we do it in the name of Christ.

As we celebrate Christmas because it has just begun, we find it very fitting that we remind ourselves of how we are to be followers, lovers, teachers, good news sharers of this baby that is born in Bethlehem!

How do we do this? As we begin 2022, I thought it would be good to explore our world and get more acquainted with it by hearing from David J. Smith and his book “If the World Were a Village”. There are 7,700,000,000 in the world. It is hard to wrap our head around this so David Smith, the author, suggests that we look at the world as a global village of 100 people with each person representing 77 million people from the real world. Please keep in mind this book was published in 2019 so like many things the numbers have changed. I do believe it will give you a

better idea about the world and hopefully, it will open your eyes so that you can see things through a different lens.

If you are in the sanctuary, you will need to pull out your quizzes. If you are worshipping online, you can pull out your pieces of paper and write down your answers.

---- We will read portions of the book during this time.

If the World Were a Village – A Book about the World’s People - Written by David J. Smith & Illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong (Second Edition published August 2019); Kids Can Press Ltd.

We will work through this together, but you will be asked these questions as we worship.



If the world was a global village of 100 people and each person represents 77 million people (think about population and the percentages of people in various geographical areas in our world), how would you answer these questions?

Population & Geography - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 would live in Asia?

- a. 59 b. 15 c. 39 d. 67

Language - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 would speak English?

- a. 20 b. 8 c. 18 d. 7

Age - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 are children under the age of 10?

- a. 25 b. 14 c. 17 d. 5

Age - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 are adults over the age of 50?

- a. 25 b. 20 c. 3 d. 10

Religions - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 are Christian?

- a. 21 b. 6 c. 16 d. 33

Food - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 do not have reliable food sources and are hungry some or all the time?

- a. 23 b. 44 c. 33 d. 3

Air and Water - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 have a source of safe water to drink either in their homes or a short walking distance from their home.

- a. 25 b. 57 c. 88 d. 69

Air and Water - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 have clean air to breathe?

- a. 20 b. 50 c. 75 d. 12

School and Work - In the global village of 100, there are 36 school aged villagers (ages 5-24). How many go to school?

- a. 30 b. 20 c. 15 d. 9

School and Work - In the global village of 100, there are 63 adults. How many are retired?

- a. 9 b. 15 c. 20 d. 6

Money and Possessions - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 have less than \$2 a day?

- a. 20 b. 10 c. 2 d. 8

Money and Possessions - How many bicycles are there in the global village of 100?

- a. 3 b. 10 c. 27 d. 56

Energy - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 have electricity?

- a. 85 b. 30 c. 65 d. 34

Health - What is the life expectancy in the global village of 100?

- a. 65 b. 72 c. 59 d. 53

Health - How many people (adults and children) in the global village of 100 will contract malaria each year?

- a. 6 b. 10 c. 2 d. 17

Experts believe that our world or global village of 100 can only sustain how many people?

- a. 200 b. 220 c. 250 d. 500

Experts believe that the global village or world will reach this number by what year?

- a. 2100 b. 3000 c. 2200 d. 2800

I hope this was helpful. To me, I found some of the numbers to be very surprising. As we greet this New Year on Saturday, I pray that we can think about ways even though small that we can make

room for Christ and for others. Hear now these words from a poem by Ann Weems, titled "If There Is No Cross in the Manger."

*"If there is no cross in the manger, there is no Christmas. If the Babe doesn't become the Adult, there is no Bethlehem star. If there is no commitment in us, there are no Wise Men searching. If we offer no cup of cold water, there is no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh. If there is no praising God's name, there are no angels singing. If there is no spirit of alleluia, there are no shepherds watching. If there is no standing up, no speaking out, no risk, there is no Herod, no flight into Egypt. If there is no room in our inn, then "Merry Christmas" mocks the Christ Child, and the Holy Family is just a holiday card, and God will loathe our feasts and festivals. If there is no forgiveness in us, there is no cause for celebration. If Christmas is not now, if Christ is not born into the everyday present, then what is all the noise about?" - Ann Weems, **Kneeling in Bethlehem***

I invite you now to come up row by row starting in the front pew and moving toward the back to come forward with your battery powered candle and place it on the world map, lifting up our world; committing to making room in the inn and clothing ourselves with Christ (above all in love). Thanks be to God. Amen.

Answers to the quiz –

Population & Geography – There are 59 people in the global village of 100 who live in Asia.

Language – There are 7 people in the global village of 100 who speak English.

Age – There are 17 children out of the global village of 100 who are children under the age of 10.

Age – There are 25 people in the global village of 100 who are over the age of 50.

Religions – There 33 people in the global village of 100 who are Christians.

Food – There are 33 people in the global village of 100 who do not have a reliable food sources and are hungry some or all the time.

Air and Water – There are 88 people out of the global village of 100 who have a source of safe water to drink either in their homes or a short walking distance from their home.

Air and Water – There are 12 people out of the global village of 100 who have clean air to breathe.

School and Work – Out of the 36 children in the global village of 100, 30 (ages 5-24) go to school.

School and Work – There are 6 people out of the global village of 100 who are retired.

Money and Possessions – There are 10 people in the global village of 100 who have less than \$2 a day.

Money and Possessions – There are 56 bicycles in the global village of 100 people (children and adults).

Energy – There are 85 people who have electricity in the global village of 100.

Health – The life expectancy in the global village of 100 is 72.

Health – In the global village of 100, 6 people will contract malaria although 41 live in areas where malaria is found.

Experts believe that our world or global village of people (adults and children) can only sustain 250 people.

Experts believe we will reach 250 by the year 2100.

The author of this book, David J. Smith says, “ By learning about the villagers – who they are and how they live – perhaps we can find out more about our neighbors in the real world and the problems our planet may face in the future. More a more in depth look at the book listen to the sermon on December 26, 2021, which can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/johnknoxpc/videos/457301772584244>.