

Transformation Journal

January 17

Daily Devotions for the week of January 17, 2010

Monday: Today’s reading falls within a section of the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus is teaching about the kingdom of God. In this passage Jesus makes it clear that he wants his followers to meet the world’s most pressing needs. We are *rethinking church as a network of relationships* that make a difference where it is needed the most.

Scripture: Read Matthew 25:31-40

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says that when you meet the needs “of the least of these... you did it to me?”
2. As part of a network of relationships what is your role in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger?

Prayer Focus

Pray for the people of Haiti. Pray that we might be able to make a difference through our network of relationships. Especially pray for the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and other relief agencies who are there now.

Tuesday: *Rethinking church as a network of relationships* not only helps us make a difference in the world, it also makes a difference in our lives. There are times in which the network allows us to go out and touch someone in need. There are other times, however, when we are the one's who need to receive from others. The reading today describes how this network, locally, provides us with a foundation of support.

Scripture: Read James 5:13-16

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. When have you received a foundation of support from others?
2. Do you have that foundation of support now?

Prayer Focus

Give thanks for those who a part of your network of support. Pray that God might extend it.

Wednesday: A Samaritan woman has a conversation with Jesus by a well. Pay attention to her spiritual development as she talks with Jesus. We are *rethinking the church as a conversation* about our most vital question in life. We seek to have that conversation especially with Jesus.

Scripture: Read John 4:7-26

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. What are your most vital questions?
2. Is your conversation with Jesus a) non-existent b) a monologue c) a true dialogue?
3. In what ways can you have a conversation with Jesus today?

Prayer Focus

Pray for a deeper relationship with Christ.

Thursday: Yesterday we saw how a Samaritan woman’s life was changed through her conversation with Jesus. This is what happens whenever a person encounters Jesus. Our problem, however, is how do we discern the voice of Jesus amidst all the noise and other voices in our lives. This is where our conversation with one another comes in. When we **rethink church as a conversation** we see that we each have an important part to play. We all have access to the common source (i.e. the Holy Spirit)

Scripture: **Read I Corinthians 12:4-11** (Varieties of gifts, one Source)

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. Do you value the gifts God has given you?
2. Do you believe you have as equal access to the Source (i.e. the Holy Spirit) as anyone else?
3. Are you pursuing that access by reflecting about your experience and Scripture and conversing about that openly with a community of faith?

Prayer Focus

Pray for our conversation partners to expand

Friday: Imagine what the church could be if we rethought it as a network of relationships, an expanding conversation and a foundation of support. Let’s get connected so that it can be just that! The first apprentices of Jesus got connected by meeting together at the Temple courts **and** from house to house (See verse 46). You have the opportunity to do the same through Sunday worship and meeting in a small home group.

Scripture: **Read Acts 2:43-47**

Observations _____

Name Personal Applications _____

Journal Questions

1. Are you a part of a small group? If so, are you fully invested in it? If not, would you consider getting connected this Sunday?
2. Are you regular in your attendance on Sunday? If so are you fully invested in it? If not, would you consider making Sunday morning a consistent way of staying connected?

Prayer Focus

Pray for our three worship services on Sunday (8:45 a.m.; 10:15 a.m.; and 11:30 a.m.). Pray for all of our small groups that they may truly be ways people get connected to God and each other.

Saturday – Read over your notes for the week and see how you are doing with your personal applications.