

The Disciple

MAY 24, 2020

104 ELM AVENUE
P.O. BOX 1344
LOUISA, VA 23093

540-848-6441
LOUISACHRISTIANCHURCH.ORG
LCCPASTORV@GMAIL.COM

Sermon for May 24, 2020

THE SHORTAGE THAT HURTS THE MOST

Philippians 2:1-11

In February, in the Pre-Covid 19 world, we were in the book of Colossians, and Paul was talking about humility and submission. Here we are in Philippians and Paul talking about humility again. A theme that the Bible repeats is worth repeating. So, if the sermon sounds familiar, that is because at the heart of humility is Christ and His path of submission to the cross. We can never hear it enough.

It was not easy for me to pass over the pricey T-bone steak while I'm looking to fill my grocery cart. We live in a time of shortages: meat, onions, garlic, disinfectant wipes, vitamin C, thermometers and the oddest of all- toilet paper, to name just a few.

We may miss those things, but we'll survive. There is something that is in short supply that we really can't live without. You can't buy it no matter how much money you may have. It's something we need, but we look in all the wrong places.

The world is in short supply of love and respect. The Bible refers to it as glory. There isn't enough to go around. This is the shortage that hurts the most. We need more love and respect. We need God's glory.

1. THE GLORY SHORTAGE

2.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 1:3 KJV

If vainglory and strife are alive in you- do nothing. Don't do anything. Sometimes I want to send myself to my room to rethink my life or at least to readjust my attitude. Take an adult time out. For too long have I been motivated by selfish ambition and an emptiness that I cannot fill.

I'm not alone. We all need to feel valued, loved and respected. We need to feel that we matter. We need someone to acknowledge our worth, our participation, our contribution, or our accomplishments. We spend our lives trying to have those things, but they are nowhere to be found.

1. Maybe succeeding in my career would fill that need.
2. Maybe if I was thinner, or stronger or a better dresser.
3. Maybe if I had more power or money I would feel better.



*This is my
command —
Be Strong and
Courageous!
Do not be afraid
or discouraged.
For the LORD
your God
is with you
wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

4. Maybe if I was married, or single or had kids, or grandkids then I would feel loved and respected.
5. Maybe if people understood that I knew what I was talking about.
6. Maybe if someone visited or contacted me.

None of these things will ever fill the deep-seated hole that we have in our souls. And trying to fill that emptiness with anything but God gets exhausting. We have a God shaped hole inside us and nothing can fill it but Him. We need to be filled with glory, the glory that comes from God.

2. WHERE GLORY BEGINS

Paul tells us where to start. We are to have the same attitude as Jesus:

“Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
 rather, he made himself nothing
 by taking the very nature ^b of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 by becoming obedient to death—
 even death on a cross!”
 Philippians 2:6-8

Before He came in the flesh, Christ lived in glory. Before He came to earth, the second Person of the Trinity was glorious. He was equal with God the Father, but He let it go (Isaiah 53). He made Himself nothing- a servant who humbled himself to a shameful death on a cross. Jesus doesn't just tell us He loves you, He showed us. He went so far to bring us near. Jesus was full and He emptied Himself so we who are empty could be full.

There is more than enough love to go around. God has it. Will you let Him fill you?

3. THE PATH TO GLORY.

Love and respect come from God's glory. There is a path to glory and Jesus lead the way. He broke in the trail. He put up a banister for us to hold onto. Jesus died on that trail. He was full of glory so that we who are empty could be filled.

“Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place
 and gave him the name that is above every name,
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.”
 Philippians 2:9-11

In God's kingdom, the way up is down. Those who want to be exalted, humble themselves. Those who want to save their lives, lose them, and those who lose their lives for Christ's sake will find them. Humble yourselves before the mighty hand of God and He will lift you up (1 Peter 5:6).

In conclusion, filling our God-shaped hole with love and respect with God is an act of faith. Faith isn't just something that we needed when we first got saved. Faith is something we use every day. It is an action word that lives in the present.

Jesus hasn't just led the way; He has become the way. He is the way. Trust in Him for your salvation. And trust in Him to meet the needs of your heart. Follow Him and your glory will one day be revealed (Rom. 8:18).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom Bible Studies

Wednesday
10:30am

Thursday
7:00pm

Contact Pastor Vincent to get the Zoom information.

Church Re-Opening

Tentatively Scheduled
Sunday, June 21st

Please listen for your phone to ring with a call from a member of the Committee working to re-open LCC for Sunday Services and Sunday School. This committee is trying to get an idea from the congregation on willingness to attend services starting in June. Please feel free to be candid and honest with the person who calls you. There is no “right” answer for everyone. This committee want each person to do what is best for them in their situation. Our number one concern is the health and well-being of our congregants.

Call to Worship

Philippians 2: 6 - 11

L: Though he was God,

P: **he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.**

L: Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave

P: **and was born as a human being.**

L: When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God

P: **and died a criminal's death on a cross.**

L: Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor

P: **and gave him the name above all other names,**

L: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

P: **in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

L: and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,

P: **to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer of the Day

A Memorial Day Prayer (Inspired by Mark 10:35-45)

God in Christ, your Gospel lays out before us a vision of service:
 desiring a place of privilege, you call us to humility;
 wanting glory, you show us that true glory comes when we act with justice and with
 love;
 coveting greatness, you teach us that greatness comes when we lay down our lives for
 others as you did for us.

On this Sunday before Memorial Day we are given this opportunity to remember your
 vision of service, to remember those who have exemplified it, and to remember those,
 in particular, who have exemplified it in military service to this country.

we remember our soldiers who died in far-away lands;
 we remember our soldiers who died back home;
 we remember our soldiers who have not died, but who suffer from the wounds and
 trauma they experienced through their service;
 we remember the military families who have experienced the costs and joys of service;
 we remember the ongoing need in our communities to care for our military families;
 we remember our leaders who have been given the authority to deploy our troops, and
 we pray for their wisdom and restraint;
 we remember Christ's vision of service and we ask for the strength to enact his vision
 wherever we are and in whatever we do;
 and loving God in Christ, as we remember, we also express our longing for a world
 where "war" is a word we no longer know, and "peace" is a word that describes, not
 what WILL BE, but what IS.

We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, AMEN.

A PRAYER FOR YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Oh Lord -

We are pretty sure we have
 nothing to offer to others,
 but when we begin to
 think like Jesus, we see the
 blessings we have, and the
 opportunities we are given
 to be your grace, your
 hope, your love in the lives
 of those around us, as we
 care for all your children
 in these days.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

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Hymn as Poetry

Help Us Accept Each Other

FRED KAAN, 1974

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, makes us one!

Hear Our Sunday Ser- vice



There is no greater love than to lay down
one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13



**Real Faith
Today
Every Sunday
8:30 AM
WJMA
103.1 FM**