

“The Gathered Church”

New Day Church

William Whaley

May 17, 2015

Acts 20:7-12

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

While Paul stayed at Troas he met with the disciples and taught them more about Jesus. Acts 20:7-12 records for us one such meeting; a worship gathering held on the first day of the week. These few verses outline for us one of the few instances in the New Testament of an actual worship gathering of believers.

We see this early church gathered regularly to share in the Lord’s Supper, listen to preaching, and to encourage one another in the faith. On this particular occasion, while Paul was preaching a young man named Eutychus fell asleep and fell from the 3rd story window and died. As those who attended the worship service began to gather around Eutychus, Paul arrived and fell on the young man and revived him. Eutychus’ resurrection story reminds us of the resurrection stories in the Gospels as well as Old Testament resurrection stories. All of this highlighted the resurrection power of Jesus and brought much encouragement to the whole body and encouraged them to continue to live for Jesus.

Throughout the history of the church we have seen many changes to how and when the church gathers; changes in traditions, music, preaching, etc. Yet from this text we see some basic elements of Christian worship gatherings. This text, however, does not cover all the elements of worship. Some elements such as prayer, giving, and singing might also be included in a worship service.

This week in your Missional Community you will discuss two of these elements; prayer and giving (stewardship). We will watch a video on each topic and discuss each one. As you prepare to meet with your group examine your own prayer life and willingness to steward your resources for making disciples of Jesus!

Message Outline

The Church gathers together...

1. Regularly on the Lord’s day in honor of the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Because we are the family of Jesus.
3. To participate in the Lord’s Supper to memorialize the death of Jesus.
4. To listen to the Bible preached in order to obey Jesus.
5. To celebrate triumph over tragedy because of the resurrection power of Jesus.
6. To look forward to the future feast with Jesus.
7. To encourage one another to live for Jesus.

“The Gathered Church”

New Day Church

William Whaley

May 17, 2015

Acts 20:7-12

Group Discussion (video application)

Watch the videos titled “Prayer in a Missional Community” and “Stewardship for Mission.” Use the Listening Guides below as you watch the videos and then spend some time discussing the following questions as a group.

Prayer in a Missional Community

Prayer in it's essence is an act of _____.

To grow in your prayer life:

1. Create _____ to learn how to pray.
 - The Hour that Changes the World (Dick Eastman)
2. Get _____ and get _____.
3. _____ in groups.

Pattern of Prayer: (Matthew 6:7-13)

1. Start in the posture of a _____.
2. Move to a posture of _____ / _____.
3. Commit yourself to His _____ and not yours.
4. Ask Him to _____ your basic _____.
5. Ask Him to show you your _____; _____ you; _____ others.
6. Ask Him to protect you from _____.
7. Ask Him to _____ you into your day.

Tools:

- A Praying Life; Paul Miller
- Personal Prayer journal
- Missional Community Prayer journal
- Make space to pray in groups.

Questions for reflection:

1. What was new about prayer that you heard in this session?
2. Why do you think you and maybe the MC struggle in prayer? What are the reasons why you fail to pray?
3. How are we going to help each other grow in prayer in this group, both individually as well as collectively?

“The Gathered Church”

Stewardship for Mission

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Acts 4:32ff

The heart of Christian Stewardship is whatever we _____ with what we _____ should look like what God _____ with what He _____.

Principles of Giving:

1. Our giving must be _____ by the _____. (2 Corinthians 8:1-9)
 - Being _____ doesn't require being _____.
 - When you _____ God in giving He will _____ you the means to give beyond _____.
 - Giving is an act of _____.
2. Seek God's _____ first. (Matthew 6:33)
3. Be mindful giving actually _____ the _____ more than those who _____.
4. We are called to give in light of _____ but so we don't get _____ by something other than Jesus.
5. Diagnostic questions:
 - 1) When do I _____?
 - 2) Does your generosity demonstrate that you believe God is _____ and _____?
 - 3) Does my giving demonstrate that I believe the _____?
 - 4) How have you approached the idea of a _____?
 - 5) When giving money do you actually _____ it?
 - 6) If people were to follow my _____ in giving where would we be as a _____?

Questions for reflection:

1. Which one of the questions most affects you, in terms of what you need to rethink in terms of your giving? Which one do you need to address right now?
2. What do you tend to learn more toward, licentiousness or legalism, and how does the gospel affect both of those?
3. As an MC, how are we all going to grow together encouraging each other towards generosity? What are we going to do to help each other grow to become better stewards of the grace that God's given us?

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.

- **Local:**

Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.

- **Global:**

Pray that God would give us hearts for the nations.