



Week 26 | June 2 Sermon

Community:

Believing that we are each created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and pairing that with the truth that we all have unique roles and gifts (1 Corinthians 12:21-31), we realize that we can learn a lot about God from each other. God is so big that He put different attributes of Himself into each of us and we can never run out of things to learn about Him. When we choose to see God in others, we are choosing to see them in their true identity—who God created them to be—regardless of their current behavior or choices. Identity isn't based on behavior, preferences, style or lack thereof; it is the core of us, the attributes of God in us.

Take 10-15 minutes individually to listen for who God might be highlighting to show you more of Himself. Ask Him for 2-3 names. As you think about these people, think about who they are and how that reflects God in them. Write these details down.

Did you learn anything new about God exploring His creation in this way? Not only have we learned more about God in this exercise, we will also deepen our roots in community. We have the opportunity to now affirm value by honoring one another with the words written. Ask God how you can honor the people He has brought to mind. Maybe you can tell them face to face or perhaps write a note, text or email. We can be culture creators by bringing greater levels of honor into our relationships and saying no to comparison and the world's lenses of value. We want God's lenses instead!

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

GROUPS

Sermon Title: A Long Trip Toward Jerusalem, Part 1 | Text: Acts 20

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

What obstacles or struggles do you face when you attempt to talk about your faith with others?

Describe a time when you have witnessed Christian behavior (not words!) from another. How did you “hear” the Gospel through this conduct?

Have you ever loved someone so much that you would do anything for that person? How or why is your relationship with Jesus different than that relationship?

If you thought you were seeing a group of your closest friends or family for the last time, how would you say goodbye to them? What would your parting words or advice include?

Have you ever felt an urge or a calling to embark on some journey or mission but have not gone? What prevented you from going?

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 20. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to? Why might this be?

Kevin organized the teaching around these words:

Encouragement

Generosity

Kingdom of God words and deeds

A servant-hearted lifestyle

Courage in suffering

Vision

Can you find these themes in today’s passage? Which, if any, are especially meaningful for you? Why?

The impact of encouragement: How are you to encourage this week?

The impact of generosity: How am I to be generous this week?

The impact of Kingdom words and deeds: Is there a situation where you might be called to express the Kingdom of God in word and deed this week?

The impact of a servant-hearted lifestyle: Can you identify a time or place when you can point others to Jesus by acting as a servant?

The impact of courage while suffering: How can you live courageously, honoring Jesus, amidst suffering?

The impact of vision: How can you grow as one who lives with the compelling vision that the King is coming to make all things right, new, and beautiful?

Will you conclude by praying for and encouraging one another?

