Series: Why? (Why We Do What We Do)

June 16, 2019

Message 3

**For the One**

Luke 17:11-19

**INTRO:** Series - Why? Why do we do what we do?

We believe we need to understand this so that we can be working in unity toward one vision without division.

Our vision here at New Life is to help people -

* **Know God**
* **Find Freedom**
* **Discover Purpose**
* **Make a Difference**

Through -

* **Sunday Services**
* **Small Groups**
* **Next Steps**
* **Dreams Teams**

Further - the Lord spoke to me clearly in October of 2014 -

**“Whether or not you grow numerically, your job … is to prepare this church to be led by the Next Generation.”**

So - we are on a path to figuring that out!

* **Growing Young Conference - October 11-12, 2019**
* **Our Pastors in “Growing Young Cohort” with Fuller Seminary** 
  + **October 2019 - October 2020**
* **Pastor’s time of Renewal and Reflection -** 
  + (announce flip to Pastor Sharon in 2019 & Pastor Randy in 2020)

Our first answer to **Why We Do What We Do** - was

**To Build the Church -**

Last week -

**For Those Who Don’t Know**

* **Recognize the Shortage**
* **Have a Reaction of Sorrow**
* **Remember the Promise of Supply**
* **Reach for the Supernatural Element**
* **Remain Silent No Longer**

**Big Idea: Why We Do What We Do?**

**For The One**

**T.S.:** I’m looking today at one of my favorite stories - It teaches me so much and reminds me of so much.

A lot of people will seek a lot of things from Jesus and from the Church - a lot of times people in leadership develop different ideas about what we should do and how we should do it - but what are we to be focused on?

Three focuses in this story - which is most important?

**> Ten people expressed hope for compassion and called Jesus, “Master”.**

Luke 17:11-13 - As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, crying out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

We need to recognize and remember that Jesus is the Master. This is one of the reasons we need to gather together regularly.

I’m not the Master. You’re not the Master.

Our ideas are not the Master.

What we want is not the Master.

What we are seeking is not the Master.

Our life goals cannot become our Master.

Our ministry goals cannot become our Master.

**We often enjoy the freedom that Jesus has given us in our lives to the degree that we forget that the One who gave us that freedom is the ultimate Master!**

We have freedom whether we come and gather or not - so often we don’t - so many other things become priority - and then we wonder why we stray - we wonder why temptations seem to become stronger - we wonder why we don’t feel as close to God or His people as we used to - we wonder why prayers aren’t answered -

We wonder why our kids don’t stay in church when we have let so many other opportunities in their lives become higher priorities during their growing up years - and we haven’t encouraged their faithfulness in the youth ministries of the church.

We’ve often exercised our freedom to the point where we are no longer living our lives in such a faithful way as to express our hope for His compassion - we have freedom - and in our freedom we forget who the Master really is -

**We have taken His freedom, but then become Masters of our own lives.**

I’ve heard of people who pray by commanding Jesus in their prayers – believing they have been given the right to tell God what to do!

Grandad in the Hospital …

We need to be reminded to recognize the holiness of God - The Jews of the OT wouldn’t even speak His name!

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

EVERY knee …

Ten people expressed hope for compassion from Jesus by lifting up their voices sand saying, “have mercy on us.”

The usual cry – UNCLEAN …

If they would have done the usual thing they would not have been healed!

James 4:2 - … you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.

James 5:16 - … The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Matthew 7:7-8 - Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Prayin’ through!

God answers prayer!

Matthew 7:9-11 - You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

What are you praying for? What are you crying out to God for? Is it in His will, plan and purpose for you?

It’s good that they expressed their hope for compassion from Jesus by calling Him “Master”.

It’s good when we come together and express our hope for compassion from Jesus by recognizing that He is the Master our lives.

I hope that is one of the blessings we receive from gathering together regularly.

But God wants more than this…

**> Ten people expressed faith in Jesus as Healer.**

Luke 17:14 - He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.

They were already on their way … before they were healed!

We want to see something – we want to feel something in order to believe – that is a lack of faith!

Healing convention – “Wiggle your toes!”

Matthew 12:38-40 - One day some teachers of religious law and Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a miraculous sign to prove your authority.”

But Jesus replied, “Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth…

Mark 16:17 - These miraculous signs will accompany [follow] those who believe…

Notice the order …

The lepers needed no sign! They weren’t waiting for a sign or following a sign! They had FAITH!

Are you looking for signs or are signs following you?

Too many are looking for signs - we come together - when we’re not exercising our freedom to not come together - and we are looking for what we want.

The American church has become totally consumer driven …

We need to come together to strengthen our faith -

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

* **We need to be reminded that faith involves sacrifice -**

A life of faith is not just us getting everything we want - our way - when we want it -

Hebrews 11:4 - It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

Romans 12:1 - And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

This life of faith is offering - it is sacrifice - it is giving up - it is not consumer driven - it is not, “do things my way or I’ll go somewhere else and keep going until I find what I want! MEET MY NEEDS!”

That is not Biblical faith.

**- Faith is a journey - sometimes a long journey -**

Hebrews 11:5 -It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God.

Hebrews 11:8-10 - It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

This world is not my home –

T.J. Crank … Kenneth Combs …

1st Corinthians 15:58 - So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

**- Faith involves making right choices!**

Hebrews 11:24-27 - It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.

Faith is not dependent on what we see or feel – it is not measured by what happens to us!

Hebrews 11:32-39 - How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death.

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.

Those who were killed by the sword had just as much faith as those who escaped the sword …

Their faith was not in anything in this world – but in Jesus Christ and in the promise of a life with Him to come!

The faith of the lepers was great enough so that they didn’t need a sign – but it was not as great as the faith spoken of in Hebrews –

It’s good when we come together and express our hope for compassion from Jesus by recognizing that He is the Master our lives. But God wants more than this…

It’s good when we come together and express our faith in Jesus as Healer - and as Provider for anything we need - But God wants more than this -

Ten came and had the hope -

Ten came and had the faith -

**> One expressed love for Jesus as Lord - and it changed his life.**

Luke 17:15-18 - One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, “Praise God!” He fell to the ground at Jesus’ feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Didn’t I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”

And Jesus said to the man, “Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.”

Actually - “Your faith has saved you.”

It seems that Jesus is putting their love to the test –

Ten came and had hope - believed in Jesus as Master.

Ten came and had faith - believed in Jesus to meet their physical and material needs - do for them what they wanted.

One stood out - one stood apart - one recognized a great need - the greatest need of all - and came back to receive what he needed to receive the most.

Jesus had been doing so many miracles - everyone had heard about it -

“Hey! There’s a great thing going on over there - let’s go look!”

“I think I’ll be committed to this church - SQUIRREL!”

“I think I’ll join and connect to this ministry - SQUIRREL!”

So many people are running around just looking for the latest, greatest thing -

There are a lot of Christians moving from place to place - it’s not new - it won’t stop -

10 came to get what they wanted - 1 recognized he needed something greater.

We can’t be the latest and greatest thing - we’re 62 years old! Our budget is taxed - we need miracles every week to move forward!

I don’t begrudge what others have and what others do - I wish, hope and pray that we would have greater capabilities - but the growth of God’s Church doesn’t depend on money, lights, music, paid staff, certain positions, etc.

God is the builder of the Church - He is the One in ultimate control - and what He decides to do no one can stop!

And He’s not always in everything that looks great!

Ten people had a great service! Ten people went to church and got what they wanted! Ten people went away happy and satisfied - but one realized he needed more.

One realized there was an emptiness in his heart - soul -

One was desperate for a life change - he had to have it!

Jesus is disappointed in the 9 -

Where are the other nine?

These 9 were changed - dramatically changed - but they just went on about their business as usual! There was no more recognition or surrender to Jesus!

Only one came back to say thank you - and receive the ultimate change!

Andrae Crouch song: “Thank You, Lord”

**Concl:** Don’t get me wrong -

We want people to be blessed.

We want people to express hope in Jesus as Master.

We want people to express faith in Jesus as Healer.

We want Christians to be blessed - to grow - to learn how to pray according to God’s will and receive answers to their prayers -

But

**Why We Do What We Do?**

**For The One**

We don’t even know his name … but we will …

When that man returned and fell at Jesus’ feet, his name was written down –

Not in the Bible – but in the Book of Life!

1st Corinthians 13:13 - Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Matthew 18:12-13 - If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away!

The Good Shepherd leaves the 99 …

It’s not about the many that are safe … The priority of our existence as a church is not about the ones who are already safe … not about our hoping … not about our faith … it’s about the ones that are lost …