

sermon

discussion guide

November 5, 2017

“Mission Drift”

Pastor Steve DeNeff

John 15:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Opening Prayer:

“Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, that we may grow closer to you through joy and through suffering. Be with us in the fullness of your power as new members are added to your household, as we grow in grace through the years, when we turn to you in sickness or special need, and, at the last, when we are committed into the Father’s hands.” (Book of Common Prayer)

Discussion Starter:

What forces tend to cause us to “drift” most easily from life on mission?

Sermon Summary:

Review the sermon as a group.

- *What key points or ideas from this week’s sermon stood out to you?*
- *How did the Spirit stir you to action or change?*
- *What other Scripture passages came to mind during the sermon and why?*

Key sermon points:

- “There are no lines that you see when you cross them.” The mission gradually drifts—heroes and villains don’t appear to be so at the time (especially not to themselves).
- Pseudo-missions almost never directly compete w/missions
 - They often grow out of *me*—out of my own deficiency, fear, or need.
- “Habits are the routines of my true mission—whatever I say my mission is.”
- We need to be balanced in both *spiritual formation* (making better disciples) and *bearing fruit* (making more disciples).
- “Amazing thoughts will get septic if we don’t release them onto people who need Jesus.”
 - This is a pathology of intellect; we need to make more disciples who reproduce themselves.
- “It is never unlawful to treat people well.”
 - Use testimony
 - Build long-term relationships

Next Steps:

- Identify: What’s your pseudo-mission?
- Get out into the community more

- Tell the people around you about Jesus (use your testimony in the public square, over lunch, in your office, etc.)
- Pray for 2 people every day who don't know Jesus and need to.

Prayer:

Spend some time sharing ways you can pray for each other. Pray about how you will respond to the sermon.