



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

June 11-17, 2018

LAITY SUNDAY

Sermon by Vickey Verwey: *"The Parable of the Mustard Seed"*

Notes from sermon on 6/10:

Prayer requests:

Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

How can you practice walking by faith and not by sight?

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

- 1 Samuel 15 says, "the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." How has this been true in your experience?
- David was anointed and received the Spirit of the Lord, although he would grow to become a very imperfect man? What can we learn from this?
- If David was not chosen because of his appearance, why do you believe he was chosen?

Monday, June 11: Read Mark 4:26-29

Every day, we make judgments. We make judgements about people. We make them about products, projects, ideas, and organizations. We make them about ourselves. We use information based on our senses, our thoughts, and our feelings in order to determine who and what gets our time, energy, and money...and we usually want instant and tangible proof that the objects of our loyalty and admiration are worthy of it. We search for the obvious potential in something or someone from the very start, and demand quantifiable signs of progress toward our predetermined goal. Most of all, if we don't see that obvious worthiness or potential or growth in ourselves, we give up...or never try to begin with.

This week, we will be challenged through the scriptures to see worthiness, potential, and growth through God's eyes. We will pray that God will help us see wisdom and truth in places we've previously overlooked, discounted, and even disrespected. We will pray that God helps us see God's kingdom as Christ describes it in today's scripture - full of seeds scattered by God that are growing in ways unfathomable to us, but soon ready to yield a bountiful harvest.

Tuesday, June 12: Read Mark 4:29-34

There are five places in the gospels where Christ uses the analogy of a mustard seed, that smallest of all seeds that “becomes the greatest of all shrubs.” In fact, God using the small, the weak, the too young, the too old, the illiterate, the poor, and the broken to accomplish great things is one of the great themes of the Bible. The smallest seed. The youngest son. The baby born in a stable. God can accomplish anything through the least likely sources, but how do we allow God to accomplish it when that least likely source is us? How do we become helpers, rather than hinderers, when it’s through someone else? The answer the Bible repeatedly gives is the same: *faith and humility*. When we finally understand that we don’t have to see, feel, or understand God’s reasons, methods, or timing in order for real work to be happening, we can have enough faith to follow God’s callings in our lives. When we finally grasp that it’s God, not us, doing the real work, we can be humble enough to see that work alive everywhere, in everyone.

Wednesday, June 13: Read 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

The greatest king of Israel did not turn out to be Saul, the tall, handsome, straight-out-of-central-casting warrior who seemed the obvious choice to all of Israel. It turned out to be David, whose menial occupation of shepherd and low rank as the youngest son meant his own father Jesse didn’t even consider him when Samuel came to his household to find the next king. But David, a young boy who would grow up to be a great warrior, mighty conqueror, and deeply flawed human being, was the one anointed and used by God to lead Israel to unimaginable heights. David, though not perfect, perhaps had one thing that set him apart: a deep, personal relationship with God. What are ways that we could deepen our relationship with God, right now? Could it be through observing long periods of silence and meditation in fields, or singing songs of praise, like David did? Through finding mentors and studying scripture, like Samuel? Through knowing we are beloved children of God and viewing all people as our brothers and sisters, like Christ did? Today, let us look for all of the small, mustard seed-sized ways we can begin to grow closer to God, having faith that through God’s grace, things can be happening in us and through us that we may not be able to feel, see, or touch, but will result in unimaginable growth and power.

Thursday, June 14: Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

The easiest way to have faith in a journey is to be able to see how it will end. This is where being followers of Christ gives us the world’s greatest advantage ever known. While we may not know the where, where, how, or who of God’s plan, we know that the victory has already been won through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We know that Christ has already died for our sins, so there’s no risk in not being perfect. We’re not perfect, and never will be. We know we are wholly and unconditionally loved, and be welcomed into God’s household for all eternity. We know that no matter what mistakes we make or what we have gone through, God can make all things new.

Friday, June 15: Read Psalm 20

Today’s psalm calls for victory, but recognizes that it’s God doing all the work. It’s God who deserves the glory. It’s God’s faithfulness, not human ability, that is the source of the psalmist’s confidence. How would placing our faith in God’s faithfulness, rather than our own ability, change everything?

Saturday, June 16: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 1 Samuel 15:7b

“For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

Sunday, June 17: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen.*