



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

June 15-21, 2020

Guest Preacher: Rich Schweiker

Father's Day

Sermon Title: "Who's at Your Gate?"

Notes from sermon on 6/14:

Things to Pray For This Week:

Household Question:

Who have we seen in our neighborhood this week who might need help?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Describe a time when you were called to help someone and did not.
2. Have you ever felt invisible to others?
3. What responsibility do people of means really have in helping others?

Monday, June 15: Read Luke 16:19-31

It's so easy to turn away. We turn off the news because it's too much to bear. We continue to work from home, go to the grocery store, and pay our bills while blocking out the images of long food bank lines and unemployment numbers. We walk straight past the shuttered houses, not knowing who might be inside and afraid to come out. We look past so many faces different from our own and avoid the looks of anger and betrayal in their eyes.

Like the unnamed rich man in Jesus's parable today, we are all guilty of the sin of ignoring the people at our gate in need of our help. In a world of such economic disparity and acute despair at the moment, how can we follow Christ's call to alleviate the suffering of others? How can we be the ones to provide hope to a community so broken?

Let us start today by *noticing*. Noticing others' humanity, pain, need, and existence. It's interesting to note that only Lazarus, the poor man, is named in Jesus's parable. The rich man's primary sin may have been that he did not even notice the poor man Lazarus outside his own gate. Who are we overlooking?

Tuesday, June 16: Read Matthew 25:31-46

We turn today to another of Jesus's parables...one that makes it impossible to miss the importance Jesus placed on helping the poor. We will not be judged by our bank account, political affiliation, job title, or even how well we took care of "our own." Instead, we will be asked, "Did you feed me when I was sick, hungry, thirsty, in prison, naked, or a stranger? Whatever you did, or did not, do to the least of those among you, you did it to me." Who are the least of those among us? Where would Jesus draw the line on those who are "worthy" of our help or our notice? Do they have to be legal citizens? Those without criminal records? People who have made only good choices in their lives? Those already repentant and saved?

Wednesday, June 17: Read Genesis 21:8-21

Today's ancient story is sacred in three religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Not only does it appear in our Bible, but Arab Muslims trace their ancestry back to the tale of Hagar and her son Ishmael, who were cast out by Sarah and nearly died in the desert. Representatives of the same religion and race of people so often vilified as the "enemy" today were cast out by representatives of the same religion and race of people so often vilified as the "enemy" by many others in the world, and many of us in the not-so-recent past. Where is God in all this? Loving them all. Protecting them all. Hearing the cry of Hagar and her child in the desert, just as we are called to hear the cry of all mothers and children today.

Thursday, June 18: Read Micah 6:6-8

We are so busy. We have so many responsibilities and people counting on us to perform at work, attend Zoom meetings, volunteer on committees, make great grades in school, and create a beautiful home. What else could the Lord require? Only this: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Which should come first – the Lord's requirements or those we really just place on ourselves?

Friday, June 19: Read Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

As we read the words of today's psalmist as he cries out to God, let us imagine he is crying out to us. Preserve my life, he says. Be gracious. Gladden my soul. Forgive me. Love me. Let me call on you when I'm in trouble. Turn to me. Save the child of the lowliest among us. Show me your favor. Help me. Comfort me. Can we be the hands of God today for all those who are crying out to God?

Saturday, June 20: Scripture Memorization: Matthew 25:40b

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me."

Sunday, June 21: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Almighty and merciful God, we know that when we offend another, we offend you. We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes. We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to our brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to our expectations. Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation. Forgive us our sin and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all. Amen.*

(MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)