



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

October 12-18, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: “Anxious To Matter”

Notes from sermon on 10/11:

Things to Pray For This Week:

Family Focus Question:

Psalm 90 famously prays “teach us to number our days...” What do you think that prayer is asking for?

Questions for Small Groups

1. Psalm 90 feels odd at first. On one hand, the Psalm says that we humans are insignificant compared to God. But then it closes with the prayer to “establish the works of our hands.” How can this be? Shouldn’t we just resign ourselves to this insignificance?
2. How is it that a strong view of eternity makes us even more engaged in ministry in this life?
3. What are you doing right now that will make an eternal difference?

Monday, October 12: Read Psalm 90:1-4, 9-12, 17

This week we are going to talk about how we should spend our time. This will not be a lesson in day-to-day time management, but a paradigm-shifting study in how we should *approach* time. Why was it given to us? How do we make the most of it? How can we ensure that the days of our lives *matter* – that we will matter?

The excerpts we read today exist amid an entire psalm focused on time, primarily the difference between God time and our time. God has always been, is, and always will be. Our days are infinitesimal by comparison. “A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by,” we read. How can anything we do truly matter by comparison?

What we will explore this week is how we were created to partner with our Creator to be part of God’s eternal work. Every time we serve, give, and love we become part of the kingdom story that will last forever. Today is one in a limited number we have, but we can make each moment last forever when we receive the wisdom of God’s guidance, word, and grace. What eternal thing will we do today?

Tuesday, October 13: Read Ephesians 2:8-10

Before we stress about having to constantly force ourselves to do good deeds all day long in order to “matter,” there’s good news, and then there’s better news: God has given us everything we need to do good works, yet even when we fail, we are saved through grace. The key to finding meaning in our lives is first by seeing ourselves and others as what we truly are: God’s handiwork...God’s masterpiece...God’s beloved. We have done nothing, and have to do nothing, to earn this. Next, we can view God’s eternal kingdom work as a natural extension of ourselves. The closer we remain to God, the more easily and powerfully we will be able to do the things that truly matter. God has a plan for each of us. We don’t have to figure it out, we just need to start responding to the opportunities right in front of us. What is God giving you to do right now?

Wednesday, October 14: Read Matthew 25:31-40

We have probably heard the parable of the sheep and the goats before, but have we used it as a time management tool? Do we remember today’s lesson from Christ when we make our priorities, do long-term planning, and budget our resources? In addition to saving money for retirement, are we spending money for eternity? In a time when everything is so uncertain, Christ’s words today are some of the most direct and actionable in the entire Bible. While other verses have caused millennia of debate regarding interpretation, there’s only one way to read this passage: the only thing that matters to God is whether we fed the hungry, clothed the naked, tended the sick, and visited the imprisoned. How does Christ’s to-do list compare to our own?

Thursday, October 15: Read Jeremiah 32

Jeremiah could teach all of us a thing or two about having an eternal outlook with our financial decisions. In the midst of the Babylonian invasion and pillaging of Jerusalem, and on the eve of the Babylonian exile (which Jeremiah foresaw and foretold), Jeremiah does the unthinkable: he invests in property in Jerusalem. This year in Jewish history puts our 2020 to shame: the world truly seemed to be ending for the Jewish people, and God had never seemed more absent. Yet Jeremiah trusted more in the power and promises of God than in his own fear and temporal experience. Jeremiah had faith that his people would return to Jerusalem, which they ultimately did. Where are we willing to invest in God’s promises of a better tomorrow today?

Friday, October 16: Read Luke 16:19-31

Today’s passage shows that every life matters to God, and injustices and inequity ultimately are addressed. The rich man in Jesus’s story remains unnamed; Lazarus’s name has been known by billions for thousands of years. Money doesn’t matter in eternity; love and concern for your family does. Status on earth doesn’t gain access in heaven; God’s grace does. We are called today to think longer term...much longer term...in how we view wealth, meaning, and what (and who) matters. Are we listening?

Saturday, October 17: Scripture Memorization: Psalm 90:12

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Sunday, October 18: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Almighty God, teach us to number our days, that we might have a heart of wisdom. We confess that at times, we see our insignificance and it enables passivity. At other times, we think that all of the world depends on us. Teach us to number our days, to see you in your glory and us in our need. Move us to number these days in such a way that by your grace, we may serve and give generously to make a difference in the life to come. As such we pray with the Psalmist: “Establish the works of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. This we offer in the name of Jesus.*