



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

October 19-25, 2020

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Sermon Title: *“We Want to Make a Difference”*

Notes from sermon on 10/18:

Things to Pray For This Week:

Family Focus Question:

Is our church making a difference? In other words, is my life and our community different because Reveille Church is here?

Questions for Small Groups

1. This text says that I, as a disciple of Jesus am the “light of the world.” How am I doing on that?
2. The text also says that I, as a disciple of Jesus, am the “salt of the earth”? How am I doing on maintaining my saltiness in this very complicated culture?
3. Our second reading says that I am “God’s workmanship.” What does that mean?

Monday, October 19: Read Matthew 5:13-16

Why are we, as a church, here? What difference has it made...or do we want it to make...in our RVA community? These are the answers we seek as we explore this week’s scriptures. These are the questions both we and all our church leaders must ask as we determine how to allocate our resources this year. What do we want our time and money to accomplish? What is God calling for us to do?

Today’s passage reminds us of our corporate calling. Seldom has there been a year when our community was more in need of “salt” and “light.” How can we at Reveille be like salt and both bring out and preserve the things that give our community hope, peace, and joy? How can we make everything a little better, revealing the “flavor” of a life spent in love and harmony? In addition, what light can we be shining for those who most need it? What do we want to call people to, and what can we call them from? Let us take time today to think about what light we as individuals would like to shine, and then how we can partner with Reveille to make an enduring and transforming difference in the lives of those who come in our doors and those who do not in our larger RVA community.

Tuesday, October 20: Read Ephesians 2:1-10

The best way to appreciate how far we've come is to remember where we started. The best way to appreciate how far we can go is to remember God's promises. Today's words from Paul remind the church in Ephesus, and our church today, what life was like before Christ – how we were “dead” in our transgressions and sins, enslaved to our worst desires and weaknesses. Now through Christ we are saved. Our good works did not get us here; rather, we can do good works from here, with the power of God who has gone before us preparing the way and the power of the Holy Spirit within us. How can today's passage give us the hope and encouragement to appreciate all we have done, and can do, as individuals and as a church through Christ?

Wednesday, October 21: Read John 4:1-38

When we think about being salt and light, we can often fall into the trap of believing we have to do something grand and public. Today's scripture teaches us that often the key is to slow down and have a single conversation with the most humble among us. Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well is notable for a few reasons. First, it is one of the longest conversations recorded in the Bible of Jesus having with anyone. Second, this conversation was not only with a woman, but a Samaritan woman...and outcast Samaritan woman. The result of this conversation? An entire town is brought to Jesus. When we think about being salt and light this year, let us remember this story and weave into our daily lives and annual budgets the time and resources to slow down and spend time with individual people – especially those most in need of salt and light right now.

Thursday, October 22: Read Matthew 16:13-19

If we don't recognize the church as a flawed human institution, we haven't learned our history, watched the news, or looked in the mirror. We are imperfect, just as the rock upon which our church was founded, Simon Peter, was imperfect. We as individuals and a church have made mistakes, and we will make many more. We aren't yet where we need to be. But today's scripture shows us that the church is Christ's strategic tool to reach the world and despite our flaws, it will survive: “The gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Our role is not to shed light on our imperfect selves (it would be a harsh light!), but on our perfect Savior and God. Our job is to be salt to bring out the flavor of God's kingdom, not the flavor of our own creation.

Friday, October 23: Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Yes, it's only October, not Christmas Eve, when we are most accustomed to hearing the spine-tingling words, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...for unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...” Just pause for a moment to feel how the power of these words washes over you. Can you imagine life without ever having heard them? Can you imagine life without the light and hope of Christmas, instead only seeing the beginning of a long, cold winter season? Today, let us bask in the light of today's scripture and make a commitment that we will work toward everyone in our community feeling this warmth and hope in 2021. What can we do right now to commit our time and resources toward spreading God's salt and light to every individual that comes through our doors or passes by them?

Saturday, October 24: Scripture Memorization: Matthew 5:16b

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (NIV)

Sunday, October 25: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Almighty God, we confess that all too often we hide our light. We confess that we fear our own light. We don't want to stand out and all too often we yearn for acceptance. As we do, our salt loses that precious saltiness for which the world around us unknowingly yearns. Forgive us and grant us courage, for the facing of these days. Restore to us a vision of who we are in you and what we are called to do. By your grace, enable us to shine our light instead of shielding it for we ask it in the strong name of Jesus. AMEN.*