



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

February 8-14, 2021

Sermon by Lead Pastor Pete Moon

Week 5: Sermon Series from *Grace Still Works* by Pete Moon

Chapter 5: "Culture"

Sermon Title: "Lord, Are You Sure We Are the Ones?"

Notes from sermon on 2/7:	To pray for this week:
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Family Focus Question:

We are supposed to make the world better. The Bible calls that being salt and light.
How do we do that?

Questions for Small Groups

1. How do we be a part of the world around us while still being different from the world around us?
2. We have been talking about grace for several weeks.
How can you be grace to someone who needs it right now?
3. The Bible teaches us that we are supposed to be ready to explain to someone why we believe in Jesus if they ask. Are we ready to do that?

Monday, February 8: Read Matthew 5:13-16

The rubber meets the road in our study this week of Chapter 5 in Pete Moon's book, *Grace Still Works*: "Culture." We will be given the seemingly preposterous commission of being the means of grace to those in our community and surrounding culture who are not believers. How do we do this? By being agents of both social justice and evangelism.

Surely we don't have to be the ones to do this, right? I mean, isn't this primarily the work of our ordained pastors and deacons? As we will see in reading Chapter 5, entitled "Culture" in *Grace Still Works*, most people in our surrounding culture today are not encountering Christianity and Christians through worship services – the primary point of contact they would have with ordained clergy. The way to be Salt of the Earth – to "flavor our culture and draw out the best of the world" (*Grace Still Works*, p. 63) – is through relationship-building and personal interaction.

What more could we as individuals be doing to "flavor" our culture to draw out the best in people and our world? What more do we need to be doing as a congregation?

Tuesday, February 9: Read John 4:7-14, 27-35

Many of us may be comfortable with the idea of working for social justice, but...evangelism? That word brings up negative images and painful memories for some of us. How do we, in our Methodist tradition, evangelize? Today's scripture shows us the power of introducing Jesus's love, grace, and forgiveness to those who feel lost and marginalized in our culture. The Samaritan woman was a pariah, forced to draw water by herself in the heat of the day. Jesus took the time to evangelize to her – to tell her the good news that she was loved and could start a new life filled with grace. As a result, she became an evangelist to her entire community. Who in our lives needs the Good News of Jesus's love, forgiveness, inclusion, and grace? We introduce friends to great restaurants we love, products we believe in, and people we think they would like. Can we introduce them to Jesus?

Wednesday, February 10: Read Micah 6:6-8

Throughout the Bible, we are called to be agents of social justice, and perhaps never as poetically as in today's familiar verse. Notice that this is not just what the Lord wants, it's what the Lord *requires*. We can imagine how vehemently we would fight for one our own children to receive justice if badly wronged. How much more strongly must God feel when seeing so many of God's children abused, used, taken advantage of, marginalized, or just forgotten? Who are we going to notice, engage, and fight for today? How will Reville become a beacon of light for those in our community who feel invisible?

Thursday, February 11: Read Acts 8:26-40

"How can I [understand] unless someone guides me?" Many of us at Reville had the good fortune of growing up in a family of believers who introduced the concepts of God, Jesus, unconditional love, grace, redemption, and eternal happiness to us as children. We know when to sit and stand in worship, where to turn in the Bible when someone says "Matthew 5:21", and understand what to do when told, "Let us pray." We need to remember that many, many people in our community did not grow up this way and have significant barriers to feeling comfortable in worship, prayer, and church in general. When we return to in-person worship, how can we be more open to seekers who, like the Ethiopian eunuch, need someone to welcome and guide them?

Friday, February 12: Read Isaiah 58:6-10

Most of us will probably feel convicted when reading today's scripture passage. On the eve of Lent, "Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness...share bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house" seems to be speaking directly to us. Are we doing enough to "pour [ourselves] out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted"? Reville will be calling all of us to a different kind of fast this year for Lent – one filled with action, not withdrawal; addition, not subtraction. What actions do we as individuals and a church need to take so we can let our "light rise in the darkness and [our] gloom be as the noonday"?

Saturday, February 13: Scripture Memorization: Isaiah 58:6-7a

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house?" (ESV)

Sunday, February 14: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of

Common Confession: *Almighty God, you have called us to change the world but we have not done a very good job. It is hard for us to get out of our comfortable places and be the salt and light that you have said we are. By your grace, give us the courage and conviction we lack. Give us the words to say to those around us that would point them to this same grace. Make our actions reflect the actions and justice of Christ. We desire to make a kingdom difference and we humbly ask that you enable us to do exactly that in Jesus' name. AMEN*