

Imagine! DO justice, LOVE mercy, WALK humbly with our God

Inspirit Bible Discussion Materials

For Sunday, March 16, 2025

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82867650055>

Meeting ID: 828 6765 0055

LAST SUNDAY

Last Sunday was the 1st Sunday of Lent. Pastor Paul was preaching. We read and talked about Luke 4:1-13. What is the potato salad promise? How can we die living rather than live dying?

Pastor Paul told us about what was the potato salad promise. Although the early Disciples did not gather post resurrection to have potato salad, the message is clear: None of us are leaving this earth alive.

Pastor Paul quoted Tony Campolo: Every year, after all the students have finished their brief presentations and are sitting there “bright-eyed and bushy-tailed,” the pastor gets up, look right at them, and in a stern, loud voice, declares, “Children! You’re gonna die someday! That right. You’re gonna die! You can’t even imagine dyin’ right now, but one of these days they’re gonna take you out to the cemetery, drop you in a hole, throw dirt over your casket, then go back to the church and eat potato salad!

I’ve read many of Tony Campolo quotes in my lifetime, he’s a treasure.

Pastor Paul went onto say that the struggle/temptation in the “wilderness” is what to keep, what to change, and what to turn around(change of heart/metanoia)

Pastor Paul quoted Rabbi Harold Kushner famously stated that people are not afraid of dying, but rather, they are afraid of never having lived, and that this fear of a meaningless life is what truly haunts us.

Loving ourselves, accepting ourselves becomes our way to love and accept others.

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Our modern temptations are to become a super star for all, to better life for everyone, and to have political power over all.

But being the Saviour is to work out our salvation in service and love for one another. Never to lord it over all.

Pastor Paul challenged us to face our mortality, to struggle in our souls of wilderness and to go forth and live well.

There's been much discussion about Pastor Paul's sermons. Are they apolitical? Political? Biblically and prophetically based? If anything, they challenge me to go deeper in faith, trust God, and love and serve others.

Did you hear anything from Pastor Paul's preaching that impacted you?

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of Lent. Pastor Jim is preaching from Luke 13:31-35. What do chicken wings, a fox, and Jesus have in common?

All this talk about keeping politics out of the church preaching will be challenged about what Jesus says in this story. The Prophetic Jesus, the Messianic Jesus, and the Way of Jesus seem to be emerging in this particular story. This is no meek Jesus! His bold words are our words. If we just read this historically, we miss out on what Jesus the Christ is boldly proclaiming today.

'Among the many important things I don't know about Jesus: whether he was a good carpenter; how he felt about Joseph not being his real father; his sexual orientation; his perspectives on slavery, abortion, and just war; his favorite kind of anything; his sense of

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humor; his best friend; why he raised Lazarus from the dead but nobody else; what he thought about between the crucifixion and the resurrection; and why he didn't make sure at least one of his disciples took better notes. I mean, seriously, I know way more about Abraham Lincoln--or Michael Jackson for that matter--than I do about Jesus.”

— Bart Campolo, *Why I Left, Why I Stayed: Conversations on Christianity Between an Evangelical Father and His Humanist Son*

Other Christian churches will be reading the following Scriptures:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13: 31-35 or Luke 9:28-36(37-43a).