



Today's Passage:

Pastor Tony's message is from the New Testament book,
Mark 8:1-10

Sermon Notes:



Welcome as We Celebrate the Glory of Jesus!



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Vol. 10, Issue 15

Pastoral Pondering

To Be Great is To Be Least

"An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest."
~ Luke 9:46

When I was 19 years old, I was a pretty zealous young believer...and I do mean young. I was at a stage in my walk with Christ that I cared more about being right than I did about loving those around me as Christ loved me. I was excitable, driven to read the Word, and chomping at the bit to engage in debate. Unfortunately, my pride had blinded me such that debate is where I thought the gospel should take place. It all came to a head one evening when I was driving in the car with my sister.

One night, when we were driving back from a family event, my sister and I began a conversation. My girlfriend, who is now my incredible bride, was sitting in the back seat witnessing this discussion. Early on in the discussion, my sister made the statement, "I don't know why God is causing so many terrible things to happen in my life and I am angry with him." Without pausing to truly hear the cry of my sister's heart, I jumped all over her with Bible verses and finger pointing. I arrogantly told her that she should be ashamed for saying such a thing about God. The conversation intensified and it got to a point that my sister was crying, I was angry, and my sweet girlfriend sat in the back seat praying for an opportunity to get into the vehicle with my parents, who were in the vehicle ahead of us. The conversation came to an abrupt halt when my sister stated, "Zack, I will never talk to you about God again." Her statement stopped me dead in my tracks and we didn't say another word for the rest of the car ride.

Sadly, I had self-righteously come to the conclusion that I was greater than her; that I somehow had the right to offer judgment on my sister's life and walk with Christ. I found myself wearing the same self-righteous belt as the disciples in Luke 9:46. Christ, however, knew his disciples' hearts then, just as he knew the true meaning in my heart that night in the car with my sister. Here is how he responded to the disciples:

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We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-Time Visitor
- Returning Visitor

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How to access the sermon archives:

If you would like a copy of an audio (CD) or video (DVD) of a sermon from our archives (\$2 per copy), please complete the following and drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room. Your order will be available for pick-up at the video booth the following week.

Name:

Sermon Date:

Scripture Passage:

To download sermons for free, go to newlifechristiancommunity.org

Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below then drop this card in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Ministry Directory:

Building & Grounds Ministry
Jim Nelson 651.283.2132
lynnjimnelson@gmail.com

Children's Church Ministry
Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Children's Nursery Ministry
Sara Fugate: 715.379.8799
fugate.sara@gmail.com

Finance Administration
Pete Manship (Treasurer):
715.755.3330
financeministry@newlifechristiancommunity.org

GriefShare Ministry
conjoh1@gmail.com

Meal Relief Ministry
Julie Minell: 715.417.1981
mrs.minell@yahoo.com

Missions Outreach
Lorraine Milner:
715.557.0661
lrnilner@gmail.com

Newsletter Administration
Dawn Holm: 715.472.8453
djholm@lakeland.ws

Sunday Meal Services
Barb Manship:
612.804.9793 or
715.755.3330
bmanship55@hotmail.com

Transportation Services
Eve Bjork: 715.497.6418
sofiesydney@yahoo.com

and,
Art Behr: 715.220.6882
behrden1@charter.net

Video Ministry
Jim Mabee: 651.470.4172
jmabee@centurytel.net

Youth Group Ministry
Pastor Chandler Wiley:
815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com

Please check a box below:

This may be added to our congregation prayer wall

Share this only with the pastor and elders

Optional:

Name:

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If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front of the church immediately following the service.

Pastoral Pondering

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"But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side and said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.'"

~ Luke 9:47-48

Just as the disciples did, I had missed the whole point. Christ establishes in these verses that, as the servant to all of mankind, he is truly the one who is great. My role that evening was to love my sister and to be a servant to her...yet I was caught up in my self-righteous perception of greatness. I am so grateful that Christ grabbed my attention that evening and that he ultimately shut my mouth. Brothers and sisters, when my sister told me that she would never talk to me about God again, I was heartbroken. The exact opposite of what I really wanted to happen occurred as a result of my pride and desire to be 'right' and 'great'.

Announcements & Events:



It's time again for teens to register for the CEF Winter Retreat! Held at Camp Fairwood, Wisconsin, February 3rd-5th, teens will enjoy snow games, worship, food, fellowship, Biblical teaching and more! More information is available on the entrance table.

New Life Business Meeting:

ATTN New Life Partners! A reminder that our annual business meeting is next Saturday, January 21st at 11:00 AM at the building. If you are unable to attend, please provide a heads-up. There are several things we will be voting on. Jim Nelson has been nominated to join the New Life Elder Board and Erika Rice has been nominated to serve as Financial Secretary. We will also be voting on the 2017 budget. We look forward to this meeting and hope to see all our New Life Partners there.

Another Resource Center Book Highlight:

What is the true gospel? What are we to share with those lost and dying around us? What "good news" are we truly standing on? These are the questions Greg Gilbert seeks to answer in his book *"What is the Gospel?"* Whether you've grown up knowing and sharing the gospel, you're a new believer, or you're somewhere in between, this book is remarked upon by many a theologian as a work necessary to our clarification and pure communication of the good news in this age of confusion, doubt, and skepticism. Stop by the Resource Center and get a copy to read with your family or a few friends and learn together what the true, biblical gospel is.

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What God had in store for me was a journey of building humility and confronting the pride that was so deeply rooted. Because of Christ working in my life through many difficult trials of shaping and molding, HE is to be glorified! In fact, God's love has brought my sister and me to a place of closeness and we have since engaged in many deep and meaningful conversations about God.

Christ did not stop there, however, and I was recently brought to tears when my sister's forgiveness and the steadfast love of Christ were exacted in a manner that I did not expect. Recently, my sister became engaged to her boyfriend of nearly eight years. Over the course of their relationship, Christ captivated my sister's heart deeply and her journey following him has been renewed. Her fiancée, who was not a believer for a large portion of their relationship, has since become a follower of Christ, which ultimately led him to propose to my sister because he wanted their relationship to be one that is honoring to God. If that doesn't cause you to praise God, perhaps it would intensify things to know that neither my sister nor her fiancée ever intended to marry! But once again, God did not stop there. The event that brought me to tears was having my sister and her fiancée call me two weeks ago, to ask me if I would officiate their wedding, an honor that would never have happened if it weren't for the love and true greatness of Christ.

--Your Brother in Christ, Zack Fugate

Pastoral Eldership Team:

Pastor Tony Minell 715.417.1982
galatiansii20@yahoo.com
Pastor Chandler Wiley 815.575.6122
pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com
Cory Mattson ~ Secretary: 715.417.0945
Zachary Fugate 715.379.2918
Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517
Dale Mattson 715.566.2302
Greg Mattson 715.417.2444
Rene Milner 715.557.0185

Upcoming Potlucks & Meal Teams:

Jan 22 Meal Team #1
Jan 29 Meal Team #2
Fellowship follows our service every Sunday, along with a great meal.



This Week's Schedule of Events:

Jan 18 **Immerse Family Studies**
6:30-7:45 p.m. at NLCC
Jan 19 **Men's Bible Study**
6:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Jan 19 **Women's Bible Study**
9:30 a.m. at NLCC building
Jan 21 **Partner's Business Meeting**
11:30 a.m. at NLCC building

Checkout New Life Online

newlifechristiancommunity.org
Find Links to:

• Events • Sermons Online •
Set Lists • & More

Tune into our pastors' podcast at the beginning of each week through our website, or the podcast icon on your Wi-Fi device.

January Memory Verse:

1John 4:19

"We love because he first loved us." (ESV)