

March 5, 2017 Sermon Discussion Guide

Rev. Steve DeNeff

“An Other Way”

Gathering

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Give us eyes to see Your way and the grace to follow.”

Psalm 139: 1-6; 23-24

¹ *You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.*

² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.*

⁵ *You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*

⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

²³ *Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

²⁴ *See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Prayer

- For the Gospel to be proclaimed throughout the world. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For truth to be clear. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For each person at CWC to seek Your way and to follow that way wholeheartedly. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Summary of the Sermon

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

Scripture

Take the time to read aloud the scripture that was preached. Luke 9:46-51

⁴⁶ *Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. ⁴⁸ Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”*

Using the Name of Jesus

⁴⁹ *John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn’t in our group.”*

⁵⁰ *But Jesus said, “Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you.”*

⁵¹ *As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*

Major Sermon Discussion Points

- Paths usually diverge leading us to a decision. What decisions have you made in the past and what were the long-term results of those decisions? (These can be good or bad)
- It can be hard to discern what path you are currently on. Remember a time you were going in a direction and you didn't see where it was taking you until someone pointed it out. Share that time with the group.
- When someone is "lost" they don't know where they are or where they are going. Has there been a time in your life when you were "lost" and someone "fired a shot" to help you find your way?
- The "broad way" often seems like the way to Easter but it leads to something more like Good Friday. The way of Jesus often seems like the way to Good Friday but leads to the life of Easter. The way of Jesus is the way anyone would take if they knew what Jesus knows.
 - How do these statements impact the way you make decisions? Have you experienced this before?

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- As a group, discuss the challenge at the end of the service together:
 - Will you acknowledge that Jesus might know something you don't, and will you listen to the way of Jesus?
 - Will you find an expression for that practice?
 - Will you confront any obstacle that keeps you from following the way of Jesus?
 - Will you testify about the way of Jesus you will take?
- Over the coming weeks, commit to reading Luke 9-19 regularly
 - Pay special attention to the crowds.
 - Pay special attention to what Jesus is doing.

Closing Prayer

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or pray the following prayer individually or together:

(from Proverbs 3:5-6)

LORD, we trust you with all our hearts.

Give us the grace to submit to all Your ways, even when those ways seem to go against conventional understanding.

We submit to you, and we trust that you will make our paths straight.

Amen.