

March 19, 2017 Sermon Discussion Guide

Rev. Steve DeNeff

“An Other Priority”

Gathering

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Grant us focus and determination to set our eyes toward You as THE priority in our lives.”

Psalm 25:1-7

¹ *In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.*

² *I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.*

³ *No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.*

⁴ *Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.*

⁵ *Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.*

⁶ *Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.*

⁷ *Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.*

Prayer

- For peace in our world. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For a way forward in hope. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For You to be THE priority in our lives. *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 9:57-62

⁵⁷ *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”*

⁵⁸ *Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”*

⁵⁹ *He said to another man, “Follow me.”*

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰ *Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”*

⁶¹ *Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”*

⁶² *Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”*

Major Sermon Discussion Points

- Talk about the “junk drawer” in your house. What’s in it? How did those things get in the drawer? Why haven’t those things found other places to be stored?
- Does your schedule seem like a junk drawer? Do you suffer from the “tyranny of the small things?” or did clutter in your life build up one commitment at a time?
- What do you think about the idea that “you can’t serve two masters” isn’t just spiritual talk but is actually impossible? What masters are you currently trying to serve?
- Try the “Pyramid of Priorities” exercise. Start with 4 “blocks” of the most important things in your life at the bottom and then work your way to the top of the pyramid by removing one block at a time. What came out as your top priority?
- What are your reactions to Pastor Steve’s evaluation of the 3 disciples who came to Jesus in this passage?
 - 1st Disciple – Priority is comfort and security
 - 2nd Disciple – Priority is allegiance/obligation to parents
 - 3rd Disciple – Priority is family
- To which of these disciples do you most relate?
- When thinking about how to make following Christ the top priority, the question of “how?” is answered with “yes.” We find a way to figure out the things that are important to us. What is your response to this?

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- Are you willing to make following Christ the top priority in your life? Will His way become the guide for how you interact with everything else?
- What are some steps you can take to begin to live this way?

Closing Prayer

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

(from Romans 12:1-2)

In view of Your mercy, God, I offer my body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to You—this is my true and proper worship. I will not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Then I will be able to test and approve what Your will is—Your good, pleasing and perfect will.

Amen.