

From the Preacher's Desk: "Sorry...Not Sorry"

Oftentimes people come up to me after a sermon and say, "You stepped on my toes with that lesson!" I used to respond, "I promise that wasn't my intention." I have to confess, that's a little bit of a lie. (A lie for which I apologize!) While I never preach to a specific person, I intend that every lesson has an affect. One aspect of that is to cause you to think about the life you are living, and whether certain changes need to be made to better yourself as a Christian. Lately, when people tell me, "You stepped on my toes," I respond with "I need to aim higher because I was going for your heart!"

In today's article, "Sorry...Not Sorry," I am aiming for your heart! I know that some people will not like what I have to say, and you are more than welcome to be angry with me, but is it me you should be angry with? Our numbers for Sunday morning worship have been going up, but we still have several members who are worshipping from home. At the start of the pandemic, I was grateful for the technological advances that allowed us to worship and remain safe. I admit that covid is still very much a part of our world, and while covid numbers going down, I agree we still need to be cautious and safe. Some worship from home because they are generally concerned for their safety, and I completely understand your feelings. However, for those who worship from home because it's "more comfortable," I caution your decision as it says a lot about your faith, heart, and love for the Kingdom. Let's not forget why God wanted us to come and worship together! Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

When we worship from home, away from our spiritual family, we can't stir one another up in love, and we definitely can't encourage each other the way we do in person. I know we don't worship on Sunday mornings for ourselves, we worship for our God; however, we benefit each Lord's Day in the fellowship that comes from surrounding ourselves with like-minded people. When our hearts are hurting, when we are struggling with sin, or we need a little encouragement; coming to worship and seeing our spiritual family provides that help. And maybe you're not struggling, but I can guarantee someone is, and God made us to serve

others. We can't help when we don't come and assemble with the saints. As one person wrote, "Christians aren't consumers, we are contributors. We don't watch. We engage!" Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I write this to encourage everyone who reads it, to examine their heart and ask themselves if they are doing their best to be a good Christian. It's easy these days to make the excuse, "I'm scared" when in actuality we are just "comfortable." Why get up on Sunday morning, and get dressed, when you can worship in your pajamas? Plus, I can worship whenever I want, and not at a specific time! Here's the truth...If you are comfortable going to parties, events, family gatherings, or even work, where other people are present, then we should be comfortable coming to worship. I promise you are just as safe, if not safer here. While we don't currently have a mask mandate, there are still several people who wear them, and if you don't want to shake hands, we respect that as well. We don't just want you to be here, we need you to be here! Your smiling face is a blessing to us all, and the love we get from worshipping with you aid our souls.

Remember, if you worship from home because you are trying to stay healthy, I respect that, and our Facebook Live is set up for that reason! But ask yourself if that's the real reason you are worshipping from home. How does it look when we don't come to worship in person because of covid, but we are fine eating at a restaurant, or going shopping at the mall? I've used the pandemic as an excuse for other things besides worship. I've said, "We should skip, it might not be safe," and then the next day go out and have fun with my family. I realized quickly that I didn't have the right attitude and needed to change. If that's you, then we want to encourage you and help you! So, if this article has upset you, or you feel like I'm "calling you out personally," I promise I'm not meaning to step on your toes, but I am trying to prick your heart! And remember, I'm not writing this to any specific person, but everyone. When you are gone, I miss you; the whole congregation misses you. And while I want to say sorry, if this article hurt your feelings, I am not sorry. All I have done today is share God's truth. Never forget what it says in John 8:31-32, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." God bless, and I love you all! David Olmos



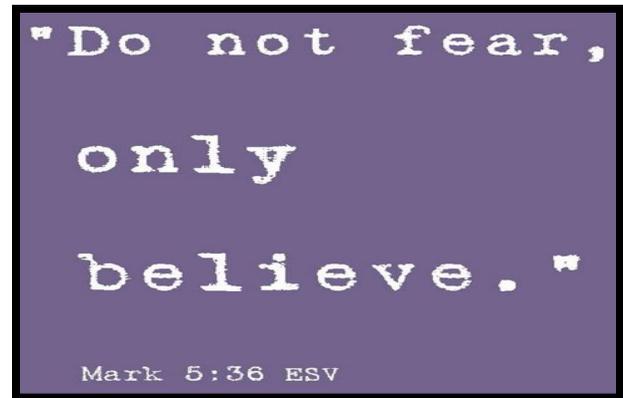
We've been having an awesome Wednesday night class, brother Scott Ratcliff has been a blessing to teach with. But if you need extra incentive to come to our mid-week youth class, tomorrow, Wednesday November 10, we will be picking a color for the youth room which we will be painting in the not so distant future! If you want your vote to be heard, we want to see you tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.!



Please come speak with me if you would like to be one of our hosts for the progressive dinner this year. It will take place on Friday, December 17. Thank you in advance.

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 13 Macy's Nacho Sweet 16 Party @ the Faycoshs'
- Nov. 14 Devo @ Sanfords'
- Dec. 5 Devo @ Andersons'
- Dec. 12 Joined Devo w/ Westside CoC (@ our building)
- Dec. 17 Progressive Dinner
- Dec. 19 Devo @ Ratcliffs'



Reading through the New Testament

in 2021

Week 44 schedule:

- November 8: James 4
- November 9: James 5
- November 10: 1 Peter 1
- November 11: 1 Peter 2
- November 12: 1 Peter 3

Please Pray

Rick Arnold is hoping to have a CT scan soon on the shoulder he hurt falling a couple of weeks ago...Suzanne Gautney is having health issues...Jackie Smith has tested positive for COVID; she was also taken to the ER Monday for heart related issues and was hoping to go home today...David Beegle, from the Impact church of Christ, had surgery last week...Bryan Evan, family friend of the Stidmans and Trammels, remains hospitalized with serious health issues; he is improving.