

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 15.06.24

PREACHER: PS CAM HALL

“SHARING OUR LIVES”

## BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING, **THINKING** & DOING

**Conviction of a Disciple:** The Church is beautiful and important: The Church is primarily a community of people in relationships - sharing the Good News of Jesus as they share their lives with each other.

### OVERVIEW

As Christ entered the messiness of our world and our lives, we as his disciples are invited to follow this pattern; entering into the messiness of our communities and sharing our lives with those around us.

In doing this, we are being formed more deeply into the image of God.

### ACTION

**Step 1: Reflect** on how you're going to genuinely share your life and enter into the lives of others. On a scale of 1-10, where would you place yourself in this spiritual practice?

**Step 2: Commit** to praying for practical ways to share your life and enter into the lives of those around you this week.

**Step 3: Act** on those prayers to begin this practice as Jesus' disciple.

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE:** ACTS 17:22-28

A unique feature of the early Church was its radical diversity: socio-economic, class, ethnicity, gender, and age. Yet, the work of Christ was able to transcend all of these differences to bring incredible unity (not uniformity) to these groups. God's ultimate plan was to reveal his "multifaceted wisdom" (Eph 3:10) specifically through the differences within these groups.

However, as we see through the letters of Paul, there were also plenty of problems that arose in these churches. It shouldn't be surprising to realise that Paul often uses the metaphor of a family to describe what God is up to in the church - because as we all know from experience, families can be both beautiful AND messy.

Jesus spent his ministry entering into the lives and homes of those around him. Specifically, those he came into contact with as he walked from place to place. He never steered away from the difficult or messy - rather he stepped toward these people and places. He entered the arenas of anguish to love, care, restore, and make beautiful those the rest of the community had discarded. Jesus broke barriers of culture, tradition, and religion to see the Good News of the Kingdom come to fruition.

Sharing and merging our lives with others will always be a complex journey. There will be hurt, there will be offence, and all kinds of differences. In fact, these things are kind of the point of the church being together. These are the places where we learn to love, where we learn to forego our egos and preferences and sacrificially serve one another. Without this kind of love, Paul calls our acts of worship nothing more than noisy and crashing gongs and cymbals. In other words, they're pretty meaningless.

Entering into the lives of others must be an integrated part of our spiritual journey if we are to be disciples of Jesus. Without question, it will be messy at times. We should expect nothing different. However, it is the journey that forms us into Christ-likeness. It does so as we learn to submit to each other, preferring each other's needs to our own, and loving them as we love ourselves.

Thankfully, we aren't in it alone. The Holy Spirit comes alongside us in this process. He, with love and grace, enters our mess and turns us into something beautiful.

## DISCUSSION

1. How have you personally experienced the diversity within the church community? Can you share an instance where differences have both challenged and enriched your faith journey?
2. Reflect on a time when you, like Jesus, stepped toward a difficult or messy situation to help someone in need. How did it impact your spiritual growth?
3. In what ways have you felt the Holy Spirit helping you navigate the complexities of church life and relationships? Share an example of how the Holy Spirit has transformed a messy situation into something beautiful within your community.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

we thank You for the beautiful diversity within Your Church and the unity that only Christ can bring. Help us to embrace the messiness of life together, learning to love and serve one another sacrificially.

As we step into the lives of those around us, may Your Holy Spirit guide us with grace and turn our lives together into something beautiful. Teach us to submit to each other, preferring others' needs above our own, and grow us into the likeness of Christ.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.