


“Community Restored”

Ephesians 2:11-18

Rev. Ray Cortese, September 20 & 21, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 2:11-18. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 75% of Americans don’t know the names of their neighbors; 25% have no one they can talk to about significant issues. Do you feel disconnected from other people? Why or why not?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

COMMUNITY RESTORED: REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE

- 3 Do you remember a time when you had no hope, when you were without God and life didn’t make sense?
- 4 There are still many people who are in the dark – most are not headed to heaven. Whose conversion are you praying for? With whom do you need to share the gospel?

- 5 Can you explain the animosity that existed between the Jews and the Gentiles?
- 6 How does our tendency to look down on other people actually reveal a deep internal insecurity? In what ways have you been guilty of looking down on others?

COMMUNITY RESTORED: REMEMBER WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE

- 7 Describe in your own words how Jesus reconciles us to God.
- 8 Complete the following sentence: "I am a Christian first, I am a(n) _____ second."
- 9 Why is it inconsistent with the gospel for two believers to say that they have irreconcilable differences? Is there someone with whom you need to be reconciled?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?