

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 6/8/2020-6/12/2020

The following content is based on the message on 6/7/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // THE FATHER OF LIES

Jesus is about to engage with the Pharisees who had unjustly applied the law to a woman caught in adultery. These Pharisees believed that they were doing the work of God, but instead, Jesus equated their actions to the work of the devil. **Read John 8:36-47.** Since the beginning of time, the Father of Lies has tried to get people to disbelieve God and God's design. God's design is that we would be united with others. We can look at the world around us and know that Satan is loving every minute of the division that we see. Satan is at work. However, that doesn't absolve ourselves from responsibility.

When we see, experience, or partake in sin, we have to call it out.

- *Ultimately, how is injustice a result of the work of the Father of Lies?*
- *Why do we have to call out sin in order to turn our behavior?*
- *Reflect on how you have contributed to the racial tension in our country. Is there anything for which you need to repent? If so, what is it?*

TUESDAY // UNITY AS A WITNESS TO JESUS

Read John 17:1-21. At the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, Jesus spoke to His closest followers. He revealed His plan to reach the world with the Good News of His love. The plan is the same for us today. The plan is for the Church to be unified as one. This unity that we experience isn't because our differences are eliminated. The unity to which Jesus calls us is in spite of our differences. That's what makes this unity so powerful and so miraculous. People outside the Church should marvel at how unified the Church is in spite of their differences.

Jesus unites people of all races and backgrounds into His Church.

- *Reflect on the differences that you see in our own church. What should those differences teach you about the image of God in all?*
- *Set a timer for five minutes (or more). Ask God for unity at New City and in the Church as a whole in Phoenix. Praise Jesus for how you've seen the Church unite.*

WEDNESDAY // UNITY AS WISDOM OF GOD

Read Ephesians 3:1-10. The goal from the beginning has been that Jesus would come and destroy the father of lies through the Church. Yesterday, we looked at the plan on earth. But Jesus' plan is even bigger than what happens on earth. Jesus wants to bring us together to be a testimony, not only on earth, but also in Heaven. Paul says that the

"manifold wisdom of God" is revealed in the heavenly places when the Church unites around Jesus. Clearly, there is some mystery to how this happens, but our mission of unity has huge implications.

When the Church comes together, we glorify God in the heavenly places.

- *Why do you think Paul says that the unity of the Church reveals the manifold wisdom of God?*
- *Clearly unity is powerful. Set a timer for five minutes (or more). Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what you can do to pursue unity with someone who is different from you. Write down what He tells you.*

THURSDAY // BEARING BURDENS IN LOVE

Read Ephesians 4:1-6. The mission is to be unified. But how? Our experience might make you feel like it is a hopeless cause. The apostle Paul gives us insight into how we can be united as one. He tells us that we must walk in love. It will take each of us in the Church in order to achieve this unity and oneness, but we are commanded to "bear with one another in love." Bearing with one another means that we rejoice with those who rejoice and we weep with those who weep. Unfortunately, rather than bearing with one another, the temptation is often to label other people or point out differences. Labeling others only causes more division by dehumanizing individuals. Rather than labeling, Christians should lament with those who have faced painful experiences.

Lament is sitting in the tension of tragedy, while refusing to fall into despair.

- *Why is lamenting so uncomfortable for you?*
- *How is lamenting a way to bear the burdens of another?*
- *Why do you need to sit and lament with others who are telling you that their experience is different from what you've experienced?*

FRIDAY // PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. As we discovered earlier this week, Satan uses sin to divide people from God and each other. This doesn't eliminate our responsibility in sin; however, we have to recognize that there is spiritual warfare going on as well. To battle against disunity with people, we bear each other's burdens in love. To battle against the heavenly realm, we put on the whole armor of God that Paul talks about in this passage. The power of Christ is so counter-cultural to how most people try to grab power. If the Christian clothes themselves in the armor that Paul describes, then they will be ready to handle any battle.

The armor of God is available for you to put on today.

- *If you practiced these things that Paul describes as armor, how would you feel more prepared to live as a Christian in your day today?*
- *With which piece of armor do you most struggle to put on? How can you practice putting that piece of armor on today?*