

Bible Study: St. John's – West Bend

January 19/20, 2022 - Pastor Jeff Hesse



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Discipleship Stories & Opening Conversation:

Is "willingness" an important spiritual discipline? Why? Why not?

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

- What jumps out at you in this text? What was the day like for the disciples of Jesus? What about the years they have spent with Jesus? What's the setting... What's going?
- The gift the disciples really needed was _____ to follow Jesus? Does Jesus ask for this faith to be a willing faith? What can you take from Jesus coming back asking his friends... three times?
- Is this a spiritual issue, a fleshly issue or both?
- What was Jesus "willing" to do? Re-Read [Matthew 26:46](#)
- So now what for the disciples? What were they willing to do over time? Bravado, betrayal, denial, fear, abandonment, fear again, confusion, joy, restoration, mission work, martyrdom.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

- What jumped out at you in this text, what is God saying to you?
- What does Paul start with in the whole idea of "gifted"?
- What does God say about the types and nature of giftedness... is giftedness spiritual, how so?
- What imagery does Paul use in describing how the variety of gifts fit together to carry out God's work?
- Are any gifts to be taken for granted? Are they all important?

Reflection & Application - What about you, right now?

- What are some of the gifts God has given you? What is God's will for these gifts? Are using your gifts? How?

- What joy do you experience? Regrets? Resolutions?
- How are you not using gifts God has given you? What was one major gift that Jesus asked His disciples to use?
- What's stopping you from being willing... bodily, emotionally, spiritually? What internal or external influences are real? Do you hear Jesus calling out to you... what is He saying?
- What encouragement can you take from today's Bible readings?
- How have you been blessed by other people's willingness to use their gifts? What if these same people were not willing?

True or False: Everything is spiritual.

- So then... is willingness a spiritual gift along with the gift itself?
- So, if we are unwilling to use our spiritual gifts, what is that?
- In the end, what motivates us to use our gifts willingly? (Hint: Go to the last verse in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12. Now God shows us the most excellent way... scan *1 Corinthians 13 – Faith, Hope and Love... but the greatest of these is love!*)



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Willingness to use your gifts for God and neighbor is an expression of God's love... for you... and those all around you. Love motivates... God's love through you!

Closing Prayer