

Lent One- Wednesday February 21- Calling/Purpose

Throughout the Lenten season we will be immersed in Jesus' teachings through the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5-7. This week our devotional readings have centered around the theme of calling and purpose. Tonight in our corporate Lenten worship we will hear Jesus' call to us all -- to be "salt" in a world that sometimes seems to be wasting away as food does without preservation, and "light" to a world plagued by darkness. And in living out our calling to be "salt" and "light," we give praise to God and bring God glory.

If you've been following along in *Resilient* you've likely noticed that calling takes on all shapes and forms. On Thursday, we were reminded that Jesus calls, equips and empowers all who are willing, even those of who *think* we wield little to no influence. The currency of God's influence isn't power, but proximity to Jesus. On Friday, we leaned into the metaphor of salt and were challenged to consider how we might strengthen the good in our communities and stop or halt that which is bad. On Saturday we turned our attention to the light, noting how light helps in the darkness by simply *being*. Sunday's tune focused on the doing. We fulfill God's calling by engaging in faith active in love. Can we love God and others with our mere presence? Yes! But we're also called to do so in concrete ways. Here Sheridan's question for us, "What if you reviewed each day by how much you loved rather than what you accomplished" proves especially powerful. We came to the start of our week, Monday, by reflecting on obedience. This is a theme that Pastor Mark has been preaching on all fall and winter. When we move in our calling we seek to obey God; obedience is a fruit of a fulfilled purpose in that sense. And finally, yesterday we bookmarked our week reflecting upon God's masterful story. It is a narrative that we ourselves are invited to play a role in! We have a purpose because we are made in the image of God. We have a part to play because God calls us beloved and is the writer of the story.

In the coming week, we will focus on looking and listening, that is *how* we might more faithfully discern God's still, consistent and encouraging voice in the work of our daily callings. As you seek to hear, expand your heart, and receive may you rest in the knowledge that you *are* called and *already* being used mightily by God.