Greetings in Christ,

It is good to be back in the pulpit this morning, and I do appreciate Pastor Dan Jr. giving the message these last three Sundays. I have heard good things about what was shared and that many received a blessing from the messages. He is now on vacation and I will be giving the message in both services this Sunday.

I don’t know about you, but I have always had trouble with remembering names, and certain other things, and then I will recall things (like addresses, history dates, etc.) that totally surprises my wife… she often says: “how is it you can remember this ‘odd thing’ and not remember other things?”

You have heard it said: “If it were that important, I would have remembered it”… well that is a big fat lie we tell ourselves. Our abundant use of sticky notes, electronic organizers and calendars on the refrigerator attest to the fact that we function best with constant reminders.

When God first gave instructions to the Israelites, he knew his people would need daily reminders. The most important information is not absorbed instantly—it is steeped into our hearts through repetition. Today, tell your children and others again about God’s wisdom and love. They need to be reminded as much as you do. Make a week-long plan for sharing with yourself and others what you know about God and stick it on your fridge.

Reflect & Pray:

How natural is it for you to talk about God with your children and others?
Would your children and others say that God is the center of your life?
In what ways do you demonstrate to your children and others your love and reverence for God?

Know that when you do, you are being the witness that God intends for you to be, not only by telling and reminding… but by living; for that is where the proof in what you say comes to life.

Oh, one other thing that you need to be doing… inviting people to come to church with you… you are doing this aren’t you? Or did you FORGET?...

In Him, Pastor Dan
Special Thought for the Week

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and I will open the flood gates of heaven, and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Something to Consider

God Blesses You When You Worship

“But few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:42 (NIV)

How easy it is to fall into the trap of thinking that God is mostly interested in our spiritual activity. Helping this person, serving on that committee, leading a Bible study, assisting with another church project. All of these things may be important, but God wants us to be with him more than he wants us to do things for him.

When Jesus showed up at her door, Martha rushed into the kitchen and began frantically to whip up a world-class feast. Mary stopped everything she was doing and parked herself in the living room at the feet of Jesus. She lingered in his presence, listening to him, enjoying him, adoring him. When Martha got irritated at her sister, Jesus gently rebuked Martha. He then praised Mary for her priorities.

What about you? Is your tendency to work first or worship first? According to Jesus, your top concern should be to focus on him. When you do, you find a blessing that will never be taken away.

God’s promise to you - I will bless those who love me and worship me.

Today’s Scripture

Submission to Governing Authorities

Romans 13:1-7 (NIV)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever resists the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

From the message, my personal notes:

The church isn’t a fortress in the community but a wide invitation. It’s the church inviting others in. And just as church members are not to bring the same things into the church the same way they bring it into their homes, they shouldn’t bring the same things to the church.

Any information or prayer requests you would like the Pastor to have, please fill out the church Response Card included in the Weekly Reflection, and give it to a Pastor or put in with the offering.