

Sermon Notes

Helping and Relating to Others in Healthy Ways

Hebrews 12:12-15

Christian Sanich, 2/12/2017

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

12:12 **Build up the tired and weak.**

They may have disappeared, but we need to go after them.

They may be standoffish, but we need to try to help.

Who can you think of that you need to, lovingly, go after?

12:13 **Make straight tracks for your feet, to help, not harm others who may be following you.**

We need to take responsibility for what we are showing those who are following us. Demonstrate following the Lord and His ways.

Who might be following you?

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12:14 **Pursue peace with people, and also holiness.**

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.”
(Romans 12:18)

“Pursue” means go after, and do it with haste.

Is there someone you don't have peace with?

12:15 **Pursue peace with grace, not allowing bitterness to grow.**

If we don't deal with a conflict or the hurt, bitterness is going to grow, and springing up it may cause trouble in the church, and by it many may become defiled (unholy).

Do you have a present conflict, or an old conflict?

Do you have a recent hurt, or an old hurt?

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

Suggested reading: Whether we have wronged someone, or someone has wronged us, we are to go to them; read Matt. 18:15, 5:23-24.

Application questions for 3/12/2017 sermon

Hebrews 12:12-15

Helping and Relating to Others in Healthy Ways

There are too many questions to cover them all at length. So, (1) feel free to move on from a question quickly if it seems enough has been said, (2) feel free to completely skip questions if there has already been enough conversation on the topic.

(Based on verse 12 - Build up the tired and weak)

When someone who is in sin or is really struggling is standoffish, even rude or mean, how have you typically reacted?

Has it occurred to you before that they are ashamed of something, and their behavior is intended to put you off? In light of that, how do you think you should react?

Do you tend to notice people that haven't been at church? What do you typically do when you notice that? And what do you think you should do when you notice that?

(Try to have everyone answer.)

Who can you think of that you need to, lovingly, go after?

(Based on verse 13 - Make straight tracks for your feet, to help, not harm others who may be following you)

Who might be following you and your example as a Christian?

What do you think they see if they are looking at you for how to follow the Lord?

(Based on verse 14 - Pursue peace with people, and also holiness)

What is your typical behavior/action when you have hurt someone or you have caused a conflict? Think about people in the church, your family, and elsewhere. Is there a difference with how you act toward those different people?

What is your typical behavior/action when someone has hurt you or caused a conflict with you? Think about people in the church, your family, and elsewhere. Is there a difference with how you act toward those different people?

(Try to have everyone answer.)

What changes do you want to make in your behavior/action in those situations?

Is there someone you don't have peace with? What are you going to do?

(Based on verse 15 - Pursue peace with grace, not allowing bitterness to grow)

What might it look like to show grace to someone we are in conflict with, or who has hurt us? Think through real life scenarios you have been in, have seen others in, or can imagine.

Have you experienced or seen bitterness grow because a conflict wasn't resolved or a hurt wasn't apologized for? What did it end up looking like?

Have you seen unresolved conflict or hurt spread in negative ways to others in the church, who weren't part of the initial conflict or hurt? What was the effect? Don't share names and details that are going to be inappropriate to spread.

Is the danger of bitterness growing in you or the other person a big enough danger to motivate you to do the uncomfortable or difficult work of trying to make peace in the present? Why or why not?

(Make sure to make it to this question, and try to have everyone answer.)

Do you have a present conflict, or an old conflict? Do you have a recent hurt, or an old hurt? What are you going to do?

Do you have a question for the group? It might be something you don't understand that others could help with, or something you think should be covered that hasn't.