

ECCLESIA: SHE GROWS

Monday

“To grow means to change.” What do you think of that phrase? Looking back over your life, is this true? To grow in faith means that we have to shed our old ways of thinking and living in order to learn the new way of Jesus. Read Philippians 3:1-16. What does Paul think of his old ways?

Tuesday

For a moment, I want you to flip a switch and turn on your imagination and allow it to run freely. As you begin imagining, describe what you see when you hear the words: Joyous, Free, Content, Peaceful, Loving. For a few minutes, close your eyes and repeat those words. When you are done, write down what you saw. The reality of walking with Jesus is that these words become markers of who we are. Are you there yet? Read Philippians 3:1-16.

Wednesday

Change is not easy. If it were, we would change more often! Yet the invitation of Christ to us is to follow a new path that leads to a deeply peace filled, grace led and love of all people kind of life. Jesus uses the imagery of seed and soils to talk about the seed of faith. Read Luke 8:4-15 and then ponder this: what type of soil is within you? What does the parable mean?

Thursday

Jesus also used other imagery. For example, Jesus used the imagery of a narrow gate in Matthew 7:13-14. What do you think Jesus is meaning? Most often, people have interpreted this passage in light of heaven or salvation, but in the context of the passages around it, what do you think? Read 7:7-12 and 7:15-20.

Friday

In the New Testament, milk is used as metaphor about growth and where we are. For the next two days, we'll explore some milk passages. Today, read Hebrews 5:11-14. What does your diet consist of- milk or meat? Often, we have heard the message of God but don't live it, act on it or share it. We still like the milk- the easy to digest stuff. Are you eating the heavier stuff? Are you willing to try some meet?

Saturday

Paul uses the milk metaphor to try to jolt the Corinthians. Read 1 Corinthians 3. What is the evidence that this body of Christ is still not living the meatier way of faith? Are you willing to become 'foolish in order to become wise?' For the way of Christ is always foolishness to the world for his path is quite different than the world's merit-based economy that determines our worthiness or worthlessness.