

**IF YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING,
WHERE WILL YOU BE?
Matthew 7:24-27**

I. THE POWER OF VISION

- A. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish (run wild)." (Proverbs 29:18)*
- B. What You See Is What You Get.
 - 1. A vision is "a positive picture of a preferred future."
 - 2. "Winners focus on winning big ... Loses, however, don't focus on losing; they just focus on getting by!" (Bobb Biehl)
 - 3. Ask yourself this question:
If I had _____.
I would _____.
Your answer to that question is your vision – your dream.
- C. Living on the Edge of Possibility.
 - 1. People of vision are always pushing the envelope, conquering new territory, living on the edge.
 - 2. "Ah, great it is to believe the dream,
As we stand in youth by the starry stream.
But a greater thing is to live life through,
And say at the end, the dream came true."

II. THE POWER OF PAYING ATTENTION

- A. *"Every one who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock ... (Matthew 7:24)*
- B. God Pays Attention to Us.
 - 1. Attention is one of the most powerful forces in the world.
 - 2. God pays attention to us: "*Even the hairs of your head are numbered,*" Jesus said.
 - 3. Jesus noticed a tax collector, a woman desperate for healing, a widow, and unimportant children.
- C. Pay Attention to God.
 - 1. God is constantly communicating to us.
* "Our faith tells us that God communicates with us whether we hear it or not ... We are being spoken to continuously."
 - 2. We have SADD: Spiritual Attention Deficit Disorder.
- D. Pay Attention to People.
 - 1. "Love notices. Love listens. Love remembers ... Love is in the details." (Ortberg)
 - 2. James gives us what might be the most violated commandment in all Scripture: "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak."
 - 3. Practice SOLER posture.
 - 4. If you want to do the work of God, pay attention to God and other people. Especially notice the people nobody else notices.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Shelly Coleman, Jim Green, Jean Holcomb, Mary Jo Moore, **Bruce Overton** ...**Friends** – Shirley Adkins, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Seth & Reece Jenson, Arvil Jones, Ellen Kaplan, Lesli Kaplan, Dillon LaRue, Bill MacArthur, Andy Schumacher, **Grant Self**, Shirley Waldron ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Ike Palmer and family** on the death of his father, **Moody Palmer**, on Tuesday, May 15 ... and to the family and friends of **Anne Miller**, who died on Thursday, May 17

PASTORAL PRAYER

Loving God, it's so easy to become distracted. We have so many choices spread out before us. Every day we come to different doors. Some are open, some are closed, some seem inviting, some seem menacing; all call for a choice. Behind each door lies a room filled with joy or sorrow, light or darkness, life or death. Which door will we open? Which room will we enter? What waits for us on the other side?

We wish we could see the future. We hope that the doors we open will lead to beauty and wonder and an abundant life. We long for an assurance that the choices we make will be wise and the rooms we enter will be comfortable. But we can't see the future and we don't know the outcome of the decisions we will make, but you know the future and you know the outcome of all we do.

Guide us as we move through our days and approach the doors that lead to the rest of our lives. Help us to find the way, the truth and the life. Enable us to give our lives to the One who can truly give us abundant life. Help us to go through the door that leads to life! This is our prayer in the name of the One who searches for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MATTHEW 7:24-27

“Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.”

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

May 27	<i>What Did He Say?</i> Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-21
June 3	<i>We Need Help!</i> Trinity Sunday	John 16:12-15
June 10	<i>Raising the Dead</i>	Luke 7:11-17
June 17	<i>What Was He Thinking?</i>	Luke 7:36-8:3
June 24	<i>Building Bridges</i>	Galatians 3:23-29

On the Radio (1450 AM):

May 27	<i>Hooked on a Herring</i>	James 1:13-18
June 3	<i>The Ultimate Workout</i>	James 1:19-27
June 10	<i>A Discourse on Discrimination</i>	James 2:1-13
June 17	<i>The Bottom Line</i>	James 2:14-26
June 24	<i>Taming the Tongue</i>	James 3:1-12