



SMALL GROUP NEWSLETTER
ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH
CAMBRIDGE, (H) ONT.

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 5, 2017

Introduction to the Word:

Over the next two weeks we will examine a profound question which we all at some stage of life ask: “What’s the Point?” If you have ever been hurt or disappointed then this message series will impact you. At its core, it’s on *how to deal with disappointment and strife*. As we look at this important question I encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to be part of the series- after all our parish family is all about **offering every person in our community a life changing encounter with Jesus**.

Warm Up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

- How did you come to know how to pray? Were there any key people who influenced or directed you? How did the example of others affect your prayer?

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL (Matthew 23:1-10,12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ chair; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces. The greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as Small Group
Reflection:**



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In the Gospel of today Jesus is asking His Disciples not what they want to be when they grow up, He is not even asking them directly what the point. But Jesus is challenging them to reflect upon the lens through which they see things. Their lives had become so complicated and complex - so out of control and filled with options that were not life giving and they did not know the point of it all anymore. They lacked humility and instead lived in the hubris of self. They were caught up in title and short term gain, but Jesus reminds us of the call to be a people who know our point not by seeking thing, but by knowing Him:

- that the answer to being dismayed in life is not found is redefining
- that the answer to being dis-ayed in life is not found is redesigning
- that the answer to being discouraged in life is not found repurposing

But the answer to discovering what the Point is found in being reacquainted with Christ.

Questions for Discussion: *(15-20 minutes)*

- In what areas of our lives do we adults tend to “talk the talk” rather than “walk the walk?”
- Does a particular moment, experience or occasion in life reflect when I gave my "all" to God?
- What are some ways to become re acquainted with Christ in our lives?
- What are some temptations which lead us to redefining, res designing or repurposing life instead of walking humbly in faith with God?

Moving Forward in Prayer *(15-20 minutes)*

(This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. This time also intent to provide moments to connect and “outreach” to the larger community.)

You were made for more than you. It’s not intuitive, but it’s true. You can’t acquire, consume, or exercise your way to discovering what the point is. But you may be able to serve your way there. If you live as if it’s all about you, you will never be able to discover the point. Is there a way you need to serve others in our parish life more? If so, what is one step you can take this week toward serving or volunteering? How can your group support you?

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.

Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray:**
Hail Mary

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