

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOV 8, 2020 // SERENITY



TIME FOR CHANGE

Continuing in the sermon series based on the Serenity Prayer, Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs highlighted the second part of the beginning of the prayer: courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Using several passages in the Bible from the Old and New Testaments, Marty taught on the concepts of courage, wisdom, and discernment, and why these traits are critical in the life of a follower of Jesus. Building on the truths of last week that God grants us serenity for acceptance of those things we cannot change, he is also the giver of courage to change what we can, as well as the wisdom and discernment to know the difference.

Courage: Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

Wisdom: Ability to discern inner qualities and relationships, good sense, judgement.

Discernment: The quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is not clearly seen or easily distinguished.

May be okay, not immoral or illegal – but is it the wise thing?

Are you an admirer or a follower?

We like to worship more than we like to follow the one we worship.

What are things you can't change?

What do you know you can change? Schedules, attitudes, friends, people we hang out with ...

What kind of a marriage do you want? What do you need to change?

What kind of kids do you want to raise?

What kind of friends do you have?

What kind of financial situation would you like?

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 14:27, PROVERBS 8:11, ECCLESIASTES 7:12, JAMES 3:17, JAMES 1:5, PROVERBS 3:21-22, PHILIPPIANS 1:9, EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Courage:

"But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' he said. 'Take courage. I am here!'" – Matthew 14:27

Wisdom:

"For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it." – Proverbs 8:11

"Wisdom and money can get you almost anything, but only wisdom can save your life." – Ecclesiastes 7:12

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." – James 3:17 ESV

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." – James 1:5

Discernment:

"My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them, for they will refresh your soul." – Proverbs 3:21-22

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment ..."
– Philippians 1:9

"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do."
– Ephesians 5:15-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in Marty's message on courage, wisdom, and discernment? How was this helpful?
2. Read Matthew 14:27. Where does our courage come from? Why does it take courage from the Lord to make changes in your thoughts and behaviors?
3. Read Proverbs 8:11, Ecclesiastes 7:12, James 3:17, James 1:5. What do you learn about the virtue of wisdom? How does it differ from doing what is considered "right"?
4. When in your life, or the life of someone you know, has wisdom guided decisions and what were the results?
5. Read Proverbs 3:21-22, Philippians 1:9, Ephesians 5:15-17. How does discernment complement wisdom?
6. Consider decisions you are currently facing and ask yourself, "What is the wise thing for me to do?" Does it require change? How will you proceed?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Ask God to work within you to daily ask for wisdom for decisions in your life. Pray for him to reveal areas in your life that need to change, and to give you courage that meets the challenge. Surrender your will to his, pray for wisdom and discernment to move forward with change that aligns with God's will for you.