



The Federated Church of Hyannis

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Reverend Derek L. White, Pastor

Special Message and Sermon Notes for June 6, 2021

This is an exciting time in the life of the Federated Church as we look at new opportunities to grow and fellowship together as a community of faith called together in Jesus' name.

This Sunday we gather together for communion. If you would like to have communion at home, please call the church office. I very much enjoy doing home communion with members.

Next Sunday will be Scholarship Sunday. We are delighted to have this resource to assist passionate students as they further their education.

On June 23rd & 30th there will be two church suppers with the book group at the church. The author of "Do It Anyway; The Paradoxical Commandments", Keith Kent, will join the church on June 30th for a live discussion via Zoom at the church. Please call to RSVP a spot for the supper.

Please contact the church if you have any prayer requests you would like included in the prayers of the community each week. While some of you may not be able to attend in-person, we look forward to including your prayer requests in the service.

Rev. Derek L. White
Pastor, Federated Church of Hyannis

SERMON NOTES: “Jesus’ Message is One of Healing”

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2,13-17

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me”. And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Introduction

There once was a large family that was very active together. Every week they would have large dinners together, call each other, visit each other, plan trips together, send cards to each other, and laugh and smile together. It was a strong happy family that supported one another.

Now, a couple houses down the street there was a man who had made some bad decisions in life. As a result of these bad decisions, he had pushed his family away. They never called him or visited him. Each night he would make a small meal to eat alone. Most people on the street thought he liked living alone. The truth was he was very lonely. He would watch the cars of all the people up the street getting together, coming and going all the time. He wished he had a family like that.

Then one day the family up the street knocked on his door to bring him some food leftover from a family dinner. They had so much left over they decided to give it to neighbors in the community. The man thanked the family for the food. But the family noticed that the man looked lonely. So the next time they had a family dinner they invited the man to their house to eat. Both the man’s body and spirit were nourished by the kind gesture.

PART I.

In the reading from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is confronted for eating with tax collectors and sinners. His response to those who confront him is that a healthy person does not need a physician, only the sick do. He did not come to save the

righteous, but to save the unrighteous. He chose to eat with those that no one else would eat with.

In the passage of Mark, we see that the Pharisees saw themselves as righteous. Because of this they refused to eat with people they viewed as sinners. They thought their positions required that they preserve standards of holiness. What they failed to see was their purpose was to communicate God's grace. Jesus came to save the sinners, not to praise the righteous.

PART II.

A valuable lesson I learned working in a soup kitchen; the food you serve nourishes the body, but the fellowship you provide feeds the soul. Those who have fallen on hard times need more than just food. What they desire is for their worth to be reflected in the time others give to them.

See, when someone is successful or has a fancy job title, people will make time for them. But when someone falls on hard times, one of the first things to go is the time others will make for them. They might feel devalued as a human being because no one will make time for them.

Jesus said the healthy don't need the physician's time, only the sick need the physician's time. Jesus committed his time to healing and helping those in need.

PART III.

Making time for others is one of the most meaningful ways to communicate that they matter. I know there are many in this church that volunteer with Meals on Wheels. And many of the people who receive those meals deeply value when volunteers take an extra moment to stop and talk with them. The gift of time is so deeply appreciated.

Conclusion

I am so glad that there is an opportunity for people to finally be able to get together again. Many of us were missing the fellowship of being together with the people we care about during the pandemic. But even before that there were many who were missing the joy of fellowship.

As the church seeks to be a beacon of hope for all, it is important we make time for all. In a couple weeks we will have our first church dinner together here at Federated. If you have a friend or a neighbor that might be tired of eating alone, I hope that you will invite them to come and enjoy fellowship together here at the church. Because Jesus has shown us the value of spending time together.