

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you could go back in time and witness any one historical event, what would it be and why?

1. What are some things you see in yourself which reveal your own tendency towards an inward focus? Read [Mark 2:16-17](#) & [Luke 19:10](#) as a reminder of Jesus' call to all His followers.
2. We sometimes think we're outward-focused, only to find that we're selectively outward-focused. God scattered the church to reach into new places. ([Acts 6:7](#), [11:19-21](#)) When you look at who you interact with—is it a wide spectrum of people, or more narrow, and what would increase your reach?
3. Read [Acts 2:36-41](#), [16:13-15](#). How might these interactions have gone differently if Peter and Paul were inward-focused, or just ignored the opportunity...the divine appointment?
4. Acts [Acts 26:27-29](#), [Philippians 1:12-14](#), [2 Corinthians 5:20](#), and [Ephesians 2:11-13](#) illustrate Pastor Tom's point that even in hard times and circumstances, being outward-focused brings perspective, joy and gratitude. Can you see places in your life where an outward focus would bring a new outlook?
5. Let's finish with taking some time to talk about Pastor Tom's closing questions: "So are you more inward-focused, or are you more outward-focused? Will you sincerely ask God to help you to be more like Him...?" ([Ephesians 5:1-2](#), [Acts 1:8](#))

Day One: [John 15](#); [Psalm 83](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 33](#); [Proverbs 21](#)

Day Three: [Romans 5](#); [2 Samuel 3](#)

Day Four: [2 Timothy 4](#); [Jeremiah 17](#)

Day Five: [Job 21](#); [Acts 27](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

A decorative graphic for a church event. It features a blue background with a grid pattern. On the left and right sides, there are stylized wooden stairs. The text is centered in the middle.

FOUNDATIONS

"MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL..."

June 30, 2024  Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

“MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL...”

June 30, 2024

Pastor Tom Lundeen



Our obsession with _____ tells us something very important about human nature; that our _____ setting is to be inward-focused.

Note [Mark 2:16-17](#)

Jesus came to this _____ to rescue lost people.

Note [Luke 19:10](#)

And Jesus _____ every one of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

But despite how clear the mission and priority of Jesus is, and despite the reality that most Bible-believing churches _____ that Jesus wants them to be outward-focused and reach lost people; the fact is, there's a cognitive dissonance in many/most churches and individuals when we recognize that what we say we believe and how we act are at least _____, and at worst, contradictory.

Today I want us to _____ and contrast how being inward-focused and outward-focused affects us.

1. When We're _____-Focused...

Even after Jesus was raised from the dead, His disciples were focused on _____ (note [Acts 1:4-6, 8](#)).

After a long time of being outward-focused, the Church in Jerusalem had an internal conflict/problem that started to get them off-mission (note [Acts 6:1](#)).

Fortunately, the apostles stayed outward-focused with their _____ (note [Acts 6:2-4](#)).

2 of these 7 ("deacons") were _____ (note [Acts 6:8](#)) and Phillip (*the Evangelist*). Note [Acts 8:4-7, 26-39](#)

The Jerusalem Church was reaching people (note [Acts 6:7](#)), but their focus was _____.

They were only interested in reaching people _____ who lived near them.

Note [Acts 1:8](#)

When we're not as outward-focused as Jesus wants us to be, at best we will only interact with people who look, talk, think, and _____ like us.

Note [Acts 11:19-21](#)

When you and I become inward-focused, it becomes all about us and what we like and _____.

And instead of seeing how great the need is for spiritually sick/lost people, we focus on ourselves and _____ the faults and weaknesses of people around us, including other Jesus followers (note [James 4:1-3](#); [Galatians 5:13-15](#); [1 Corinthians 14:23-25](#)).

2. When We're _____-Focused...

- We realize every human interaction we have can be a _____ appointment (note [Acts 2:36-41](#); [10:34-35](#); [16:13-15](#)).
- We recognize that even in challenging/_____ circumstances that God is at work in people's lives around us (note [Acts 26:27-29](#); [Philippians 1:12-14](#)).
- Being outward-focused produces a God-given _____ in our lives - it's a joyful privilege, not an _____ burden (note [2 Corinthians 5:20](#)).
- We get to be an _____ of the Creator of the universe and Savior of the world...
- And when we share our story with others and invite people to *come and sit with us*, it reminds us of how much we have to be _____ for (note [Ephesians 2:12](#) and [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)).

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- An important part of being an _____ of God is to be outward-focused just like Him (note [Ephesians 5:1-2](#)).
- So, are you more _____-focused?
- Or, are you more _____-focused?
- Will you sincerely ask God to help you to be more like Him...?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

“MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL...”

June 30, 2024

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Our obsession with selfies tells us something very important about human nature; that our default setting is to be inward-focused.

Note [Mark 2:16-17](#)

Jesus came to this earth to rescue lost people.

Note [Luke 19:10](#)

And Jesus calls every one of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

But despite how clear the mission and priority of Jesus is, and despite the reality that most Bible-believing churches affirm that Jesus wants them to be outward-focused and reach lost people; the fact is, there's a cognitive dissonance in many/most churches and individuals when we recognize that what we say we believe and how we act are at least inconsistent, and at worst, contradictory.

Today I want us to compare and contrast how being inward-focused and outward-focused affects us.

1. When We're Inward-Focused...

Even after Jesus was raised from the dead, His disciples were focused on themselves (note [Acts 1:4-6, 8](#)).

After a long time of being outward-focused, the Church in Jerusalem had an internal conflict/problem that started to get them off-mission (note [Acts 6:1](#)).

Fortunately, the apostles stayed outward-focused with their solution (note [Acts 6:2-4](#)).

2 of these 7 ("deacons") were Stephen (note [Acts 6:8](#)) and Phillip (*the Evangelist*). Note [Acts 8:4-7, 26-39](#)

The Jerusalem Church was reaching people (note [Acts 6:7](#)), but their focus was narrow.

They were only interested in reaching people like them who lived near them.

Note [Acts 1:8](#)

When we're not as outward-focused as Jesus wants us to be, at best we will only interact with people who look, talk, think, and vote like us.

Note [Acts 11:19-21](#)

When you and I become inward-focused, it becomes all about us and what we like and want.

And instead of seeing how great the need is for spiritually sick/lost people, we focus on ourselves and magnify the faults and weaknesses of people around us, including other Jesus followers (note [James 4:1-3](#); [Galatians 5:13-15](#); [1 Corinthians 14:23-25](#)).

2. When We're Outward-Focused...

- We realize every human interaction we have can be a divine appointment (note [Acts 2:36-41](#); [10:34-35](#); [16:13-15](#)).
- We recognize that even in challenging/difficult circumstances that God is at work in people's lives around us (note [Acts 26:27-29](#); [Philippians 1:12-14](#)).
- Being outward-focused produces a God-given joy in our lives - it's a joyful privilege, not an onerous burden (note [2 Corinthians 5:20](#)).
- We get to be an ambassador of the Creator of the universe and Savior of the world...
- And when we share our story with others and invite people to come and sit with us, it reminds us of how much we have to be grateful for (note [Ephesians 2:12](#) and [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)).

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- An important part of being an imitator of God is to be outward-focused just like Him (note [Ephesians 5:1-2](#)).
- So, are you more inward-focused?
- Or, are you more outward-focused?
- Will you sincerely ask God to help you to be more like Him...?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back