

A stony heart

JOHANNA RUGH | NOVEMBER 13, 2017

I was on my way to a social holiness retreat. My friend asked me if it was about being holy in your social life? "Sort of," I replied, to quickly dismiss further questions.

That day was one of the most troublesome days of travel I've ever had. Twelve hours of traveling, five different states, a broken plane and itinerary changes messed up my transportation arrangements. Even though I consider myself very strong, I was tired—to the point that being holy in my social life was extremely difficult.

After some rest, I arrived at the retreat location. Little did I know that God had a treat for me. After we met for the first meal at the retreat center, we set out on a prayer walk. Throughout the walk, stations were set up, complete with benches and wooden stands holding a Scripture passage.

The Lord convicted me that day, as I read Scripture, and I heard this question: What am I doing to bring hope to those in need? During my walk on the predetermined outdoor paths, I kept looking down to make sure my steps were firm. After I walked the last path, I encountered a piece of stone in the shape of a heart. I picked it up and tears began to flow. How many of us still have a stony heart, even as Christ followers?

You may think, "No, I don't have a heart of stone." But every time we allow injustice in the lives of the vulnerable, when we don't offer a second chance to someone, our hearts harden a bit.

I still remember the once-popular catch phrase, WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?). Even though "WWJD" isn't as widely used, still we need to be asking ourselves: What would Jesus do in "this" situation? How would he react?

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Each time we decide to follow our instincts instead of God's precepts, we are not allowing his love to run through our veins. Ask God to cut out a "stone heart and replace it with a red-blooded, firm-muscled heart" (Ezekiel 11:19, The Message) so we can infuse his life, justice, love and mercy into a world that is in desperate need of hope and change.

November 26, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

"The Secret treasure of Contentment"

Philippians 4:10-20

Sermon Notes:

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Matthew 6:25-27
Matthew 6:31-33

1. Know nothing of a _____ mentality

2. Learn to be satisfied with _____

Luke 12:13-21

3. Have contentment that is _____ from one's circumstances

4. Be strengthened by the _____

John 15:4-8

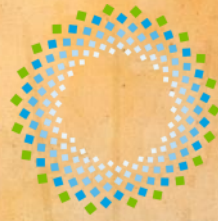
Galatians 2:20

5. Be utterly preoccupied with the well-being of _____

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. What is your next step? How are you doing in the area of contentment? What could you apply from the Word of God to help grow/mature you in this area?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following local schools:



FOCUS

WESLEYAN CHURCH

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday night. We are going to be having breakfast for dinner. You have been invited to come and share a meal and fellowship with us.

November is National Adoption Month

Consider visiting Promise Kids a Future website to learn how you can be involved:
promisekidsafuture.org

Special Guests Rev. Aaron Sherman and family - next Sunday, December 3

We will be sharing a meal following the morning worship service.

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Welcome

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US