

New and Improved

KEN HERR | JANUARY 11, 2018

“I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.” (Matt. 12:6)

WE CAN BE SKEPTICAL when a product is labeled “new and improved.” It may mean only that the packaging has changed and the amount of the contents decreased. God’s redemptive plan in Jesus is not merely the repackaging or dumbing down of an old product. The law of Moses and the sacrificial system were intended to lead people toward the fulfillment of God’s salvation plan in Jesus. Something greater than the law, sacrifices, and temple was present in Jesus, but many preferred to hold on to the old while being suspicious of the new.

A seismic shift was taking place in God’s redemptive plan. Jesus was greater than the temple or the religious acts that took place in it. The offering of himself as the sacrifice to remove the sins of humankind was greater than any sacrifice offered on the temple altar. Some preferred to stick with lifeless symbols and empty rituals that were intended to point them to Jesus, and they missed Him.

We are not much different. We can spend our time at religious places and occupy ourselves with religious practices that do not cause us to have greater knowledge of or love for Jesus. Someone greater than our places, preferences, and practices wants to invade our lives with the new and improved way to God. Don’t settle for something less.

Surrender the familiar and accept the new thing God wants to do.

January 14, 2018

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

In Christ Alone - “*Childlike Faith*”

Sermon Notes:

Matthew 19:13-15

Matthew 18:1-10

Ephesians 4:14

Hebrews 5:12

Matthew 18:12-14

1. God _____ about us as individuals

2. We are as _____ and have a natural tendency to go astray

Isaiah 53:6

3. Despite our _____, God never gives up on us

4. Our Shepherd _____ us; so we should _____ others

Psalms 28:9

Isaiah 46:4

5. God gets excited when _____ people come to repentance, and so should we

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? Could it be said of you, “that man or woman has the mind of a scholar and the heart of a child”? If not, which area do you need to grow in?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following unsaved friend or family member:

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.

FOCUS Youth Group - will be meeting tonight!

6:30-8 PM! Friends invited and snacks provided!

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday night. The meal will be ready at 5:30 PM. You have been invited to come and share a delicious meal and uplifting fellowship with us.

Please Prayer for our Missions Team in Uganda - January 11th - 24th



FOCUS

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WELCOME

THANKS FOR JOINING US