

Monday

Read Proverbs 17:17 and 27:17

“Show me your friends and I’ll show you who you are” is an old saying that is more true than we would like to admit. When you are close to a person, you tend to become more like them. When you are in a work environment with dedicated, hard working people, you tend to become more dedicated and hard working. When you are in a work environment filled with negativity and laziness, you tend to become more negative and lazy, either because their poor behavior rubs off on you or you decide that you aren’t going to work yourself to the bone to make them look good.

We are better at ensuring the ones we love, especially our children, have good friends but often don’t do a great job with that ourselves. Do you have high-quality friends? Do you have friends in your life who help develop you into greater Christ-likeness? If not or if you could use some more, could they be at our church? Pray for your friendships, current and future, to be bathed in God’s glory.

Tuesday

Read 1 John 2:1-6

We are developed into being more like Jesus by being close to him. We do well when we grow close to Jesus in our own bible study and prayer, but our life is not totally solitary and private. Notice I did not modify “life”. I didn’t say spiritual life or faith life, etc. No part of our life is our own private domain and we shouldn’t think of any part of our life as its own separate box or compartment to use and put away as desired. You will not become more like Jesus merely through your own effort, nor will you manage it with a “me and Jesus” attitude. You need to be actively part of your community and your church. Verse six reads, “Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did,” and Jesus lived in community. He didn’t have to surround himself with people constantly, but he knew the best way for people to become like him was to be with them. Commit to being with Jesus’ community so that we can be a community of transformation into being more like Jesus.

Wednesday

Read Isaiah 53

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and this is why Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is the day before—a time of feasting and revelry before the fast.

The aims of worship on Ash Wednesday are three: to reflect on our own mortality, sinfulness, and need for a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance and turn towards Christ; and to gratefully recall that Jesus has conquered sin and death on our behalf.

Our gathering will reflect these aims with meditative liturgy and music as well as being marked by ashes—which symbolize sorrow, mourning, frailty, and repentance.

Our worship gathering will be relatively brief – about 30-40 minutes – and focus on Jesus and repentance. Children are welcome to be here for the whole service. Nursery care will be available. We hope to see you this evening at 7:00 pm. If you are not able to join us this evening, please take some time in prayer for repentance and for those who will be attending.

Thursday

Read Philippians 4:1-9

Paul is starting to give his “wrapping up” thoughts to the church at Philippi. Look at each verse: how can you live out these words in community?

Friday

This Sunday we start a new sermon series called *Jesus is Greater*. We will look at some key passages in the book of Hebrews to see how Jesus is the greatest. I would encourage you to read Hebrews chapter one at a minimum. However, if you feel inspired, you could read as much of it as you are able this weekend. Hebrews can be a difficult book to understand, but you can give it a quick read for familiarity and we’ll dive into some passages a bit deeper between now and the first Sunday after Easter.