

September 23, 2018

Mark 9:30-37

“Welcome Home”

Looking at different aspect of “family”

- biology/blood can make a family
- shared interests – fishing, hunting, hiking
- shared faith

What can bind a “family” together is mutual interests and shared tasks

What Jesus’ disciples found out, though, shared interests and shared tasks is not enough to bind them

There were divisions growing, fueled by a need to be seen as “the best”

Jesus’ response to this was: “you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all.”

Over and over again, Jesus calls us to serve

It’s not like he has put himself above this edict, today’s reading begins with him sharing the fact that he would be killed for living and teaching the way he did

In fact, the power of Jesus’ message still impacts today because he was willing to

serve, to be the servant, to give his all for the message of love and reconciliation

His example of service is our call to serve

Preaching this to you is almost not necessary, Amicable Church does serve – in this community and around the world

But, sometimes we answer the call to serve in a “who’s the greatest” way

We like to participate in big name service, the one that makes the paper, then there are those calls to serve that rate low on our list, like chores we avoid – toilet cleaning

Many of those calls to serve are about cleaning and repairing the church building

As I thought about this “call to serve” I am beginning to see three areas or types of service

First, helping a neighbor – near or far

- feed, clothe, shelter

Second, is helping our church family – giving of time, talent, wealth to make sure church building and grounds are presentable and kept up to date

Third – and this is new for me – call to serve in a way that connects me to other members of my church family

A call to serve

- that creates smiles and laughter
- that relaxes and refreshes
- that makes us think and reflect
- that raises the heart beat and invigorates
- that leaves us wanting more

All three of these types of service, answered with humility and hope, are necessary to becoming a healthy family

We are real good at these first two calls to serve

- Thanksgiving Basket Project
- caring for church building – just speak to Roger or Maryellen

Of late, we have fallen short in this third type of service, but we are working at it

- Our past Open House was fun
- John Burt and Jeanna DaCosta went with youth to explore Purgatory Chasm

- You are invited to attend “Building Bridges” conversations

We are beginning to plan more opportunities

To do so we need your involvement, both in planning, implementation and participation

It is as we answer the call to serve that we turn our beautiful church house into a faith family home.

As we continue our faith journey together, I pray we grow together and grow strong as we seek to answer the call to serve.

Amen.