

How to be Used by God

Matthew 13:32-33

2/12/23

Discussion Questions

Preparation

When people think of "church" how do they see their relationship to it? Do people see their role in the church the way the Apostle Paul conveyed it: *"You are the body of Christ."* I Corinthians 12:27. Being part of the body of Christ is organic, connective, and active. You can't "go to the body of Christ" like people go to church. Church is a being. It's us. So how are we to relate to the church and whose responsibility is it for the church to grow?

The Passage

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." Matthew 13:33

1. Reflect on the parable and what it says about Jesus, how he works in us, how to grow in our faith, and how to be used by God.
2. Are you familiar with sourdough starters? Have you made bread or seen bread made using a sourdough starter? How did the bread taste?
3. Share a favorite memory of your mom baking.
4. Have you tasted the True Bread of Heaven? What has your relationship with God been like? What fresh bread has he produced in your life?
5. Share how you have been fresh bread to others?
6. Have you ever shared your faith with someone? Would you consider sharing a 5-minute testimony about what God has done or is doing in your life? If so contact Pastor Richard.
7. How important is it to not only talk like a believer but also walk like a believer? What's it like to know a fellow believer who is not living the life? How do you feel about them? How do they affect the church and its mission?
8. Discuss this statement:

"Every Christian carries a dual role. We are sinners save by grace making us saints but we all carry with us sins that can sabotage our lives and ruin them. So we are a worshipping people who praise God for saving us and also a confessing people who need to repent of our sins. We aren't victims to our sins but they can prey upon us."

9. According to the object lesson Jesus is using to teach us about his kingdom, yeast, what can we do to grow naturally in our faith and *"become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."* Ephesians 4:13

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10. How can we *"Yield" ourselves to God!* Romans 6:13 And if you don't mind being a bit vulnerable, what part of your life do you need to yield to him that isn't currently yielded to him?
11. Look at Isaiah 55: 10-12. What does it say about growing as a believer?
12. Discuss this statement: *"If we want to grow as a church we need to do two things. One, we need to stop doing the things that repel people and tear down the church. Two, we need to start doing the things that attract people. AND NOTHING is more attractive than Christ-likeness."*
13. What "old yeast" would you like to see gone in the Church (Large C) and your church (FPC)
14. What was church like when you grew up? How has the church changed over the years? What changes have you liked and what changes do you not like?
15. Brainstorm ways we can offer "fresh bread" to others? Fresh bread is still the ancient bread, Jesus the True Bread of Heaven but communicated in fresh ways. Jot your ideas down and forward them to Pastor Richard and he will share them with Session. (You can remain anonymous if you want)
16. What did you think about Pastor Richard's "fresh" idea of reaching families by opening up our homes to families who need a temporary place to live until they can get on their feet?
17. Do you have a closing comment, insight or question to share?