

From My Gut

“From My Gut about Being a Presence Based Church”

Exodus 33:7-22 – August 11, 2013

Current Sermon Series

FROM MY GUT		
<i>A 3-Week Series from the Gut of Your Pastor</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 4	From My Gut about Personal Growth	1 Timothy 4:7-8
Aug 11	From My Gut about Being a Presence Based Church	Exodus 33:7-23
Aug 18	From My Gut about Marriage	

Three Super Important Bible Passages

1. Exodus 33:7-23

- Moses understood that THE MOST IMPORTANT THING for this group of people whom he was leading was for _____ to be with them and go with them.

2. Psalm 84

- Grace Fellowship, I want us to be like the Sons of Korah who have a passion for the _____. Who say... vv.1-2 and v.10.

3. Luke 10:38-42

- We each have a choice to make individually, regardless of our personality type:
 - Will I choose busyness or bowing?
 - Will I choose to do stuff *for* Jesus before I spend time *with* Jesus?
 - Will I choose the many distractions or the one thing necessary?
- Comparing the choices of Mary and Martha:

<i>Martha's Choice</i>	<i>Mary's Choice</i>
Getting things done	Sitting at Jesus' feet
Doing something <i>for</i> Jesus	Being <i>with</i> Jesus
Consumed with tasks	Consumed with Jesus

- Terry Teykl: “Martha was so busy trying to *serve* Jesus that she didn't even have a moment to be *with* Him.”
- Samuel Brengle: “My greatest temptation in ministry is to attempt to do something *for* Christ before I spend time *with* Christ.”
- We have an important choice to make as a congregation:
 - Will we be a Martha Church or a Mary Church?
 - Will we be a Consumer-Based Church or a Presence-Based Church?

Consumer-Based versus Presence-Based

<i>Consumer Based Church</i>	<i>Presence Based Church</i>
Our primary audience is _____.	Our primary audience is _____.
Trying to please people.	Trying to please God.
Gearing the worship service toward people.	Gearing the worship service toward God and His Presence.
Seeker-driven, Small Group-driven, Purpose-driven, Program-driven, Music-driven, Tradition-driven	Driven by God's Presence
Jesus is mascot	Jesus is Master
Martha Church	Mary Church
Consumed with tasks	Consumed with Jesus
Primarily measure and celebrate attendance and financial giving	Primarily measure and celebrate encounters with God, tears/joy, testimonies of life transformation, sense of His Presence, maturity, people saying, “I experienced God's Presence”
Focused primarily on what the human customer says will make him happy	Focused primarily on encountering God thru worship, Word, and prayer
Sunday = performance for people	Sunday = offering to God
Key Q: Did the people like it?	Key Q: Did God show up?

The Cry of Your Pastor From My Gut

Grace Fellowship, let's be a _____!

Application: 5 Ways You Can Help Us Be a Presence Based Church

1. Pursue God passionately yourself. Spend time _____ pursuing Him in your own personal life (Mark 1:35). Be an Exodus 33 Moses. Be a Psalm 84 Son of Korah. Be a Luke 10 Mary!
2. Join your fellow church members in passionately pursuing God together in corporate worship every Sunday (Hebrews 10:25). Show up to church before the first song begins. Worship passionately. Pray fervently. Come with Bible and heart open to hear from God in His Word. View Sunday services as your offering to God (versus meeting your needs and wants).
3. Offer your spiritual gift in service to Christ's body as an act of worship (1 Peter 4:10). _____ others as though you are serving Christ Himself. Serve in children's ministry or youth ministry or music ministry or care ministry or prayer ministry or missions ministry or small group ministry or administratively or as an usher/greeter or help launch North Campus.

4. Go deeper in community with Christ's body by plugging into a small group of some kind (Acts 2:42-47). Love Christ by loving His Body, getting to know a group of people in His Body, and growing together spiritually and relationally with them.
5. Love Christ by loving the people on His heart: _____ (Luke 15). Pray for your Ten Most Wanted List. Share the Good News with them as the Lord leads. Invite unchurched people to church. Pray for our unreached people groups.

Another Way of Saying All of This

Let's go deeper as a _____ !

Heading into Fall 2013, we focus our attention on finishing the year well:

House (Discipleship)

1. **Knowing God** – Doing a church-wide study of the attributes of God from the Psalms in a series called "Knowing God" starting Aug. 25.
2. **Small Groups** – Conducting a small groups campaign starting Aug. 25. Come to GroupLink on Sept 15 or Alpha on Sept 10.
3. **ESV** – Announcing our switch to English Standard Version as the pulpit Bible starting January 1, 2014. (Possible Christmas present.)

Prayer (Seeking God's Presence)

1. **Prayer Blitz** – Blanketing the church in prayer by calling every single Grace Fellowship member on the phone to pray with/for you on Oct 10.
2. **Journals** – Giving every single GFer a Quiet Time Journal in December with 3 ways to daily connect with God (S.O.A.P., YouVersion, and ChristFit).
3. **Worship** – Worshipping God in Spirit and in truth every single Sunday giving our Lord the worship He deserves including an amazing celebration of our Lord's birth in December!

Nations (Outreach)

1. **Raj*put** – Formally adopting the Raj*put of India as Unreached People Group #4 in a special service on Sunday, October 20.
2. **Cross Cultural Experience** – Challenging every single GFer to go on a cross cultural missions experience before Year End 2015.
3. **GF North** – Launching GF's North Campus at Christmas including a volunteerism campaign (Sept), prayer campaign (Nov), and Christmas caroling in North Katy (Dec).
4. **Two Invites** – Seeking to invite our community to join us at Back to School (Knowing God) and Christmas Eve.

Videos Today

- "Hallelujah – The Story of the Coming Forth of Handel's Messiah" [2:47] found at YouTube
- "Christmas Food Court Flash Mob, Hallelujah Chorus" [4:57] found at YouTube

Questions to Discuss with My Spouse, Family, or Small Group

1. When it comes to your personality temperament, do you naturally tend to be more of a Mary (relational driven) or a Martha (task driven) person?
2. Read Exodus 33:7-22 and discuss its meaning and applications using these notes. Share your applications with one another and pray for each other.