



Living into our Values

September 5, 2021

Matthew 22:36-40

Connect:

- Jim Collins said, *“If you have more than three priorities, you have no priorities.”* How do you determine the priorities of your life? Can you name three? Share them with the group. How do you stay focused on these three priorities? What is cause for your greatest distraction from each?

Engage

- Read **Matthew 22:36-40**. Jesus is being confronted and tested by the religious authorities of the day as they see him as a rebel without a cause. He’s disrupting what they perceive to be a perfectly tuned formula of faith. Of the 613 laws of the Jewish faith, Jesus is asked to prioritize the most important law. He names the first and a second as – *Love God. Love Neighbor. “Everything else hinges on these two,”* he says. What does this mean to you?
- Is it harder for you to love God or love your neighbor? Why?
- How do you love people you don’t particularly like?
- What are the roles of the spiritual laws that are lesser priorities? How does this play out in your own life?
- In several instances, the Bible shares that *“the opposite of love isn’t hate, but rather fear.”* Do you concur with this idea of love’s opposite? Why or why not? Discuss.
- Adonica Coleman names that *“We live in a VUCA world (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous).”* Being pulled in so many directions, our priorities can be impacted by each of these realities. How do you choose what to exclude from your to-do or to-be lists in order to stay clear about what is yours to do? How do you say *“No”* to good things so you can stay focused on the best things?
- Adonica also shares, *“We need the courage to say ‘no’ to some things so we can get to a better yes.”* How do we get to a *“better yes”* as individuals? As the church? As a community?

Next Steps:

- Get clear and intentional about the priorities of your life. On a white board, your refrigerator or your planner, make a list of the top three priorities for this season of your life. Once your three are established, start with a plan for tomorrow. What will you do tomorrow to keep those priorities as your top focus? Repeat this process for a week or until you’ve established a healthy habitual practice.

Pray:

- *“When faced with so many paths to take, so many choices to make, so many options to choose, we hear your Spirit say, “Focus.” Lead us to what truly matters, Lord. When we are pulled in every which direction, remind us of your great commandment: Love you. Love our neighbor. That is more than enough – and certainly enough to keep us focused for a lifetime. Amen.”*