

Jerk Town

Selfish Street

We live in a world of relationships.

1. The way you do relationships matters to God.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

2. All relationships have challenges.
3. Nobody lives happily ever after naturally.

“We are quick to resent and feel what we suffer from others but fail to consider how much others suffer from us. Whoever considers his own defects fully and honestly will find no reason to judge others harshly.” (Thomas a’ Kempis)

The Foundational Relationship Reality

**“I can’t help but experience life with me
at the center of my universe.”**

(Pete Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*)

Personal Reality

I need to make God-honoring choices.

So What?

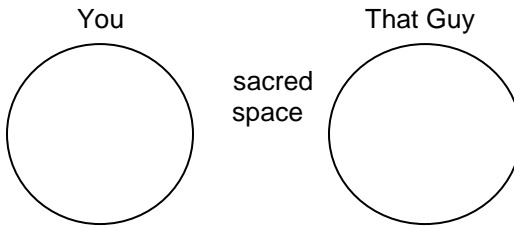
1. Change the way you think about you.

Ask forgiveness for putting yourself at the center of your universe.

2. Change the way you think about the other person.

That guy is deeply loved by God.

3. Change the way you think about differences.



The goal of the Christian life is to love better.

Today's Scripture is from The New International Version
John Bray, October 1 & 2, 2011

Want to hear this again?

The sermon is posted on the church web site by Monday evening.

www.heritageqc.com Hit **“Watch sermon on-line”**

To dig deeper, visit John's blog at www.NowWhatJohn.com

Now What? Resources for Reflection & Growth

Why do you think “reality TV” is so popular? What do you think that says about our culture?

Why do you think “relationships” are so difficult? (If you don’t believe they are difficult consider the divorce rate, the number of unhappily married people, people who are depressed, teens who are isolated, etc.)

Read Matthew 22:37-40

- What do you think it means to love God the way Jesus commands?
- What do you think it means when it says that loving your neighbor is “equally important”?
- Why do you think the way you love the other person is so important to God?
 - Here are a few scriptures that might help you decipher this: Genesis 1:26; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9

John said, “All relationships have challenges.”

- How would believing or not believing this effect the relationships you have? For instance, what might be the danger to a marriage of believing that you should be able to “live happily ever after” without any challenges?

Thomas a’ Kempis said, “We are quick to resent and feel what we suffer from others but fail to consider how much others suffer from us. Whoever considers his own defects fully and honestly will find no reason to judge others harshly.”

Reflect on that and compare it to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:1-5.

The central theme of this sermon related to the problem of selfishness. Pete Scazerro said, “I can’t help but experience life with me at the center of my universe.”

- What do you think this means?
- What is the danger of experiencing everything through the filter of me?
- None of us can see the world through any other eyes but our own. Since this is so, how do you think we can get past the problem of selfishness? (In case you don’t think this is important read some of what the Bible says about selfishness Galatians 5:20; James 3:13-18; James 4:1-8)

John closed the sermon by suggesting you consider the differences you have with another person as “sacred space.”

- What do you think he meant by that?
- What change would you need to make to do that?