

Jerktown

Trivial Terrace

“If I had known what a big deal it was to her I wouldn’t have done it.”

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.”

Sacred Space: worthy of devotion.

“The worst sin toward our fellow creatures
is not to hate them but to be indifferent to them;
that’s the essence of inhumanity.”
(George Bernard Shaw)

*Matthew 7:12“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

Three ways we trivialize the other person

- 1. Our tendency to not pay attention to life from their perspective creates an atmosphere of uncare.**

*Matthew 7:12“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

The Challenge: Step to the their side and think, “How would they sense I value them?”

Q: How can you know what makes the other person feel valued?
A: Ask them.

- 2. Our tendency to pay attention to other things at the cost of important things creates an atmosphere of uncare.**

*Matthew 7:12“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

We have an amazing tendency to not “Be Present.”

The Challenge: Prioritize your attention based on the importance of the relationship. Pay attention to the most important relationships first.

3. Our tendency to collect little hurts and forget the big picture creates an atmosphere of uncared.

Matthew 7:12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

The Challenge: I’m going to remember I am not perfect and I’m going to give you room to be less than perfect too because our relationship is so important.

So What?

Self Assessment

- Do you consistently step to the other side and consider their needs?
- Are you present enough in the relationships that really matter?
- Do you generously allow the other person to be less than perfect?
- Are you bringing your best to make this space sacred?

Today’s Scripture is from The New Living Translation
John Bray, November 5 & 6, 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 and Growth

Getting Started: What is the smallest, least important thing you've ever gotten really angry about? **OR** In your most important relationships, what's something you didn't think was important, only to learn later that it was? How did you learn that?

John said that the word "sacred" derives from the idea of devoting yourself to create a protected space. Why do you think we so frequently bring junk into the sacred space of relationship?

Read the quote from George Bernard Shaw on page one. What are some of the ways we might demonstrate "indifference" to someone?

One way we trivialize another person is to not look at things from their perspective. What are some practical ways you could demonstrate to your most important relationship people that you are looking at life from their side?

John talked about the tendency to get distracted by less important things.

- What do you think it means to "be present" with someone? How would they know you are present? How would you know you are present with them?
- What's your reaction to the idea of turning off a cell phone or your internet at some regular interval? You didn't used to have a cell phone, why does it seem so hard to shut it down now?

The problem of "collecting" trivial little issues until they create a big issue has actually been talked about in the two sermons previous to this (the sermon on forgiveness and the sermon on anger).

- Why do we have the tendency to "collect"?
- Why do we have the tendency to forget our own imperfections?
- What discipline could you put into place to help you with this?

The So What section included a self assessment. Pick a key relationship in your life. Assess yourself on a scale of 1-10. Ten is high.

-Do you consistently step to the other side and consider their needs?

-Are you present enough in the relationships that really matter?

-Do you generously allow the other person to be less than perfect?

-Are you bringing your best to make this space sacred?

What relationship did you pick?

Which area needs your greatest attention right now?

What will you do?