



THURSDAY 10.21.10

John 15:9-13

Before the celebration of the Last Supper, Jesus offered words of hope and instruction to his disciples. Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me . . . Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Fear is a natural response. We all feel afraid, but Jesus invites us to overcome our fears with love.

- According to these instructions given in chapter 15, how does Jesus describe what it looks like to "remain in love"? What fruit might we expect to experience in our lives if we stay faithful to the command to "remain in love"?
- How has the love and grace expressed to you by others helped you experience progress in your recovery? In what ways has God led you to "lay down your life" for others?

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FRIDAY 10.22.10

II Corinthians 5:16-20

In our final reading last week, we read verse 17 and were encouraged to commit these 19 words to memory. Verse 17 is a powerful reminder that "God believes in our recovery." When we find ourselves doubting, this short verse pulls us back to the truth. The old has gone! The new has come!

- Yet, Paul does not stop with that encouraging word. He reminds us again of a basic principle of our faith. Those who have received are called to share. God has reconciled us to himself and given to us "the ministry of reconciliation." As God has cared for us, we are called to care for others.
- How has your journey of recovery enabled you to encourage others to be "reconciled with God"? If God's dream is for the entire world to be "reconciled to himself," how are you participating in that dream?

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**GROW • PRAY • STUDY**

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD . . .

**Series:** *Broken*  
**Message:** *What's My Purpose?*  
**Scripture:** *Corinthians 6:16-20*

**The foundation of this series:**

- All of us are BROKEN.
- EVERYONE is recovering from something.
- Recovery is POSSIBLE.
- Recovery is not about finding the right ANSWERS but asking the right QUESTIONS.

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## Introduction

Throughout this series we have looked at what we might describe as the basic core of the Christian faith. We are all broken. God has seen our brokenness and has taken the first step towards us. Jesus is God's way of saying that recovery is possible. A commitment to Christ and to becoming his disciple is our first step towards seeing God's dream for our recovery being realized in our lives. This week we add the final piece to that picture.

For all those who have made that commitment, God calls us to pour our lives into others. Just as we are in need, so is our neighbor, our co-worker, our family member, our friend. Recovery is a journey that was meant to be shared, and the church is the place where our partnership together is strengthened and lives are transformed. We believe that God has placed this holy calling on each of us individually and in our life together as First United Methodist Church of Mansfield.

***Loving God, thank you for loving us! Thank you for recognizing our brokenness, responding to our hurts and inviting us to experience recovery in our lives. God, help me to see the broken! Help me to see the hurts! Help me to respond to others as you have responded to me! God, enable me today to be a prophet of hope for the world. AMEN.***



## TUESDAY 10.19.10

## Matthew 28:16-20

The mission of our church comes from two important sections of scripture. Jesus' command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind . . . and your neighbor as yourself" is often referred to as the "Great Commandment." The second section of scripture, also known as the "Great Commission," is our text for today and the final words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel.

- Jesus describes the process of becoming his disciples as receiving baptism and learning to obey his teachings. How does our process of recovering from brokenness connect with the journey of becoming a disciple of Jesus?
- If you were able to fully recover from the brokenness you've experienced, would you be a more faithful disciple of Christ? In what way? How might your own recovery free you to love God in a deeper way?

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## MONDAY 10.18.10

## John 4:39-42

The Samaritan woman that Jesus encounters in the opening verses of chapter 4 had lived a wholly different life from Nicodemus, the Jewish leader whose encounter with Jesus we find in chapter 3. Nicodemus' life was marked by respect. The Samaritan woman's life had been marked by shame. Her experience of brokenness and her encounter with Christ had led her to bear witness to the amazing man she had met that day.

- In Jesus' exchange with the Samaritan woman at the well [John 4:7-26], he said that "the water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." What evidence of that transformation do we see in the Samaritan woman in our text today?
- It's been said that "God never wastes a hurt." How might God use your experience of recovery to bear witness to Christ's power to transform someone else's future?

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## WEDNESDAY 10.20.10

## Acts 1:4-11

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the author of that Gospel, as well as the book of Acts, states that after "careful investigation," he set to write out an "orderly account" of the life of Jesus as well as the church that was founded after Jesus' resurrection. Acts is the story of that new community that was formed, and in our reading today, as Jesus ascends into heaven, the work of the church begins.

- Jesus says that when the Holy Spirit comes, you will receive power. If you have made a commitment to Christ, how has the spirit's power enabled you?
- Not knowing exactly what was to come next, the disciples found themselves spellbound, staring at the sky. Have you ever stopped growing because you were not sure exactly what came next? If you find yourself there today, what do you think might be next for you?

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