

On Your Own – Take home questions to shape your life

To live as a person in God's rehabbed community means putting aside our own desires and ways and living according to the ways of God's community.

- God's community is about living in community. We cannot claim to be part of God's rehabbed community unless we are an active part of the body of Christ. This is a community where you and others have God's law written on the heart, have him as your God, know him in the light of Jeremiah 9.23-23, and know and extend forgiveness.
 - What do you most celebrate about being part of God's rehabbed community?
- Where do you have the most difficulty in living out your place in God's rehabbed community?
- How do you pass on the blessings that God has given you into the life of the community so that the community is a vibrant place that passes on blessings to the world?
- Pastor Larry pointed out at the end of the message Sunday that our strength for living as part of this community is to remember the amazing communities of the past and to look to Jesus who made and makes this community possible (Hebrews 12). In Hebrews 11 we find that heroes of the faith were those who took a longterm view of joy rather than looking for short term satisfaction. How can you become a person who more and more looks at the longterm blessings of God (see Hebrews 11.8-16)?

Don't Miss

- Recovery Service May 23 6 p.m.
- No Evening Service May 30
- Celebrating the Lord's Supper May 30 at morning services
- **New Morning Worship times beginning June 13 9:30 and 11:00**

EXPLORE THE STORY DISCOVER YOUR LIFE

evergreen ministries

Message Notes:

In need of a Rehabbed Community (Hebrews 8.6-12)



Withering (Genesis 12.1-2)

A Picture of a Rehabbed Community

- Soft Hearts and Knowing the Lord (Jeremiah 9.23-24, Isaiah 58, Matthew 25.41-42)
- I Will be their God... (Genesis 17.8)
- Forgiven

Power to Live (Hebrews 12.1-3)

Exploring the Story, Discovering Your Life ***A Study for Small Groups and individuals***

Remembering

Look at your message notes: What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?

Telling our Story, Building Community

Where have you seen a house or building rehabbed? What most struck you about the changes you saw?

Being Shaped by the Text Jeremiah 31; Hebrews 8

Rehabbed Community

Jeremiah and the writer of Hebrews both point to four things that are true of a rehabbed community (Law on hearts and minds, I will be there God..., Knowing the Lord, and sins forgiven).

- Do these things strike you as important to a rehabbed community? Why or why not?
- Is it possible that some would see these things as not being essential because God's vision of a rehabbed community is different from ours?
- What would you see as the main differences between God's vision of a rehabbed community and our vision of a rehabbed community?



Read Isaiah 58.1-10, Jeremiah 9.23-23

- Sunday morning Pastor Larry said that a community that is withering is unable to bring blessing to others (Genesis 12.1-2). The picture that Isaiah gives is of a community that considers itself vibrant, knowing God's ways and living them. It is a place of prayer, of worship, and of fasting. It is a place that says they are always trying to figure out what God wants of them. But as one person points out, **"Their relationship with God is mere formality. It is a relationship filled with rules, compliance and personal piety, but it fails in a true relationship with God where a person has a deep social conscience."**
 - Why is it an essential sign of relationship with God that we pass on blessings to others?
 - We see on many occasions in the Bible where there are communities that believe they are vibrant, but are in fact withering. The book of Revelation speaks of several churches in this way.
 - Rev. 2.4 "...I have this against you, you have abandoned the love you had at first."
 - Rev. 3.1 "You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead."
 - Rev. 3.17 "...you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered and need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.'"

- How is it possible for a community to believe that it is vibrant while it is withering?
- Is it possible for each of us to believe that our faith is vibrant, but in reality it is withering? How would we know? Who in your life can help you discern this?
- Tell about a person you know whose faith is vibrant in that he/she passes on the kind of blessing to others that Isaiah 58 calls for.

Read Colossians 3.12-14

- Another sign of a rehabbed community is that it is a place where people are forgiven by God and where they forgive one another.
 - Paul tells us that we are to both bear with each other and we are to forgive each other. What's the difference between bearing with someone and forgiving someone?
 - How willing are you to bear with another person's quirks and missteps?
 - How willing are you to forgive others? How does this forgiveness cause a rehabbed community?
 - What does it look like to bring this forgiveness into a world that needs to be rehabbed?

Strength for the Journey

Read Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-10; 12.1-4

- How does seeing that faith is assurance of what is yet to come empower us to live the life of a rehabbed community?
- How does being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (like Abraham) empower us to live the life of a rehabbed community?
- How does keeping our eyes focused on Christ empower us to live the life of a rehabbed community?
- Tell about how you rely on these three things so that you invest yourself to build and be a part of God's rehabbed community where God's law is on your heart, where God is your God, where you know God, and sins are forgiven.