

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What does it mean to be grateful?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read John 16:33. How has God used problems in your life? Are you a better person because of that problem?
3. What do you do when you have a problem with someone who calls themselves a, "Christian" and attends church? Do you leave the church? Do you ignore that person? Do you avoid them?
4. God is a problem solver. You can give your problems to God. Pastor Ruben said, "If you surrender to God's purpose, God will use that problem to accomplish His purpose. God can use problems to push you to a new spiritual reality." How have problems made you better...or what did you learn about yourself in that problem?
5. Please read Acts 6:1-7. Do you find it surprising that a problem arose during a time of growth? What jumps out at you at first glance in this passage? What is God telling you?
 - a. Read Acts 6:1 again. How would you define "complaining?" What's the difference between complaining and expressing a concern?
 - b. Compare this passage with Exodus 16:1-9. What was Exodus 15 about? What can we learn from the Israelites in this story? Would those people around your life call you a, "Complainer?" Do you think complaining is a big deal under the eyes of God? Compare with Philippians 2:14.

6. Acts 6 is about an “Us and Them” issue. Who were the “us and them” in this story? What are some examples of “Us and Them” in our culture today, at work, at school, at church? Are you surprised there were problems in the early church?
7. According to Acts 6:2, what is the priority problem? According to Acts 6:3-4, what is the solution?
8. According to Acts 6:5, what were the qualifications for someone who would serve food to these widows?
 - a. What does it mean to be “full of the Spirit and wisdom?” What does such a person look like?
9. What was the result of working through this problem? Please read Acts 6:7.
10. Has it ever dawned on you that working through your personal problem can impact other?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Problems can reveal more about you than your problem.
- If you surrender to God’s purpose, God will use that problem to accomplish His purpose.
- There’s a difference between a complaint and a concern.
- “Grumbling, whining, and thanklessness are not ultimately the heart’s responses to circumstances, but to God.” - Steven Lee
- One of the marks of spiritually mature church is you don’t hear much complaining!
- God’s will is that we treat everyone the same. God wants us to love everybody.
- The goal of the devil is to get you to focus on your wants, desires, and feelings. Everything becomes personal. If you become self-centered, than the greater purpose bigger than you dies.