

SERMON NOTES:

1. I naturally walk toward safety.
 - a. True faith is strengthened in community.
 - b. True faith is secured by Jesus' love.
 - c. I experience Jesus' love through the unity of His body.
2. I cautiously walk when I feel insecure.
 - a. Loving one another requires vulnerability.
 - b. Loving one another requires forgiveness.
 - c. Loving one another requires service.
3. I walk away when I am deceived.
 - a. When I look for safety in influences not connected to Jesus, I will be tempted to walk away from Jesus.
 - b. Following a deceiver is following someone who is deceived - this will always produce instability.
4. I walk back when I sense Jesus' love coming to find me.
 - a. Jesus is looking for me because he delights in me.
 - b. I experience Jesus' delight when I sense it through his body - true believers.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. I naturally gravitate towards people and places that make me feel safe. My safe places ultimately reveal the object of my faith.
 - a. Who are the people in your life that make you feel safe?
 - b. What places make you feel safe?
 - c. What is it about those people and places that makes you feel safe?
 - d. Can you connect the safe places of your life to the object of your faith?
2. To truly love someone will inconvenience me at some point in the relationship. I will either feel a sense to share shame or hide it. I will be confronted with the conviction to forgive or harbor bitterness. I will make a choice to serve or walk away. Inconvenience makes me feel insecure and my natural self tries to avoid insecurity.
 - a. What personal insecurities make it hard for you to love certain people?
 - b. Give some examples of times that you loved someone despite your own insecurities and some examples of times that you catered to your insecurities and failed to love.
3. When I feel insecure, my tendency is to isolate myself. When I am in isolation, I begin to believe all sorts of false realities about people and situations. It is important to understand that I can isolate myself even when surrounded by other people.
 - a. Can you relate to the tendency to isolate when you feel insecure? How so?
 - b. What lies have you believed in your isolation?
 - c. Do you feel more stable or less stable in isolation? Why?
4. When I recognize the ways I have been deceived and I feel the inevitable shame that follows, it takes an experience of Jesus' love to refill my joy. Jesus' love can be tangibly experienced through his body - the ones who believe in him. The Church.
 - a. How have you experienced renewed joy through Jesus' love that was poured out through a fellow believer?