

Week 3 | IN

Read the key scripture passages referenced

- **Luke 6:12-19**
- **Genesis 2:18**
- **Acts 2:36-47**

Watch the short video summary of the message

- What stood out to you?

Read the quotes below and as you reflect on them, ask:

- Why do I agree or disagree with the statement?
- How do they connect to the above scripture passages?
- What would it mean if you were to live this out fully?
- What would have to change in order to do this?
- What stops you from making those changes?

Quotes

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *“Life Together”*

Let him who cannot be alone beware of community...

Let him who is not in community beware of being alone...

Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls.

One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings,

and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair.

Elizabeth O’Connor, in *“Journey Inward, Journey Outward”*

Only a visible community where one can experience the breaking down of the dividing walls within oneself will make witness to a God who calls us out of estrangement and isolation.

N.T. Wright, in *“After You Believe”*

The “revolutionary vision of virtue... enables us to shift attention quite drastically away from the idea that Christian behaviour in the world is basically about “good works” in the sense of good moral living, keeping the rules, and so on, and toward the idea that Christian behaviour is basically about “good works” in the sense of doing things which bring God’s wisdom and glory to birth in the world.

Robert Mulholland Jr, *“Invitation To A Journey”*

Spiritual formation is
the process
of being conformed

to the image of Christ
for the sake of others.

Elizabeth O’Connor, in *“Servant Leaders, Servant Structures”*

Holding to the narrow way, as life-promising as it may be, has never been easy, and is especially difficult in our market-driven, industrial countries with their emphases on consumption and private gain. Very few today talk about or value solitude, creativity, friendship, dialogue, reflection, political and social action on behalf of oppressed persons — a different way of being in the world. All these possibilities for our lives would be nurtured in the small groups.

3 missional challenges that the modern evangelical church needs to come to grips with are:

1. resist the extreme individualism & narcissism of western culture;
2. tell a compelling, up-to-date-and-beyond story about the living God, the communities that serve him in the name of Jesus, and where things are going; and,
3. live out in public the radical & quite possibly uncomfortable consequences of that story.

This Week

Use the Lectio Divina handout this week as you reflect on **Matthew 17:1-13**. Read **Matthew 17:1-13** this week – each time using a different translation.

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you?
In silence meditate on that.
2. What do you feel?
What specific situation in your life today relates?
Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. What is God’s personal invitation to you from the Scripture?
You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks.
Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit’s presence.

As you read it, immerse yourself in the text. Imagine yourself being there.

Ask yourself:

- Who do I identify with?
- What do I see Jesus doing?
- What do I hear Jesus saying?