



Servants of Christ
Rev. Chris McNeill, Senior Pastor
3827 Broadway, Houston, Texas 77017
713-986-5195

www.ServantsNow.org
<https://m.facebook.com/ServantsNow/>



Devotion for Week of August 10, 2020

Hebrews 13: 16 Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of “sacrifice”—that take place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets. (The Message)

I wish I had that old answering machine. It was a long summer in 2008. It seemed every few weeks I was boarding a plane to North Carolina to see my Dad as he struggled with COPD and congenital heart failure because “the doctor says this may be it.”

When I was home in Florida I would still call Dad, especially if he was in the hospital. Of course, the conversations went from “I pulled out my IVs last night” to “I fell out of bed because I was tangled up in the sheets.” One night he called me back and I was at a church meeting. He left a message, something to the tune of “Hey Chris. This is your Dad. I'm doing OK. I love you. Bye.” It was the only recording of his voice. As the years went by and I moved to another church appointment, I forgot about the tape in that answering machine; My goodness it had a million messages on it. But not a week goes by that I don't wish I could hear his voice again.

During these trying days, I encourage you not to take this craziness for granted. My Mom wants “everything to go back to normal.” I do too, but I don't have the ability to create vaccines. And I'm pretty sure “normal” will be out of the

dictionary by 2021. Instead, I CAN do what I can do and that is to invest in my family. Cherish every moment because, believe it or not, you will look back and be grateful for many things. As much as I wish I could change many things about the past, I am still grateful for the experiences because they made me who I am. If I could go back knowing what I know now, well, that would be a different story.

There is a saying: What you wish for all, do for one. Do you wish for peace and healing? Do for one person what you hope for everyone. Start small. Mother Teresa picked up one baby at a time. The woman from Canaan in this upcoming Sunday's message had "great faith" not because she studied a lot; She had great faith because she acted on it. She did not leave Jesus' side until her daughter was healed. Return kindness when people act unruly now-a-days. Spend time with friends and family. Listen to them. Spending time in the past doesn't help us. Racing towards a mirage of the future doesn't help us. Be present. To yourself, others.

Most of all, don't take family and friends or your faith for granted. You might want that old answering machine someday.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, my day-to-day routine is so busy. So much so that I sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in my life. My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation. I want to thank you, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Sometimes life is very hard, and it's a struggle to keep my head above water. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult often hurts. When my heart feels stretched and empty, and pools of tears form in my weary eyes, still I will rejoice that You are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning. In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for Your unconditional love.