

SERMON NOTES - MAKING ROOM FOR MORE - Sept 8 - Pastor Peter

Leviticus 26:9-13 "I will look on you with favour and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep My covenant with you. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. I will put My dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high."	QUESTIONS: 1. Is making room for God something we should do? Why?
2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."	2. What should we do when we feel the passion for God wane?
1. Making Room for God	
We start by making room for God.	
What if we stayed as connected to our Creator as we are to our	
devices? What if we make room to have more of God in our lives. What if we have more of God. What would our lives be like?	3. Is the spiritual fervor
Acts 9:36-38 "There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at	something we control or God?
Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, 'Please come as soon as possible!'"	
Tabitha dies and they send two people to Peter and they ask him to come as soon as he can.	
Acts 9:39,40 "So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled	

with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. But Peter asked them

all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, 'Get up, Tabitha.' And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up!" Does this story sound at all familiar? Mark 5:38-42 "When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He went inside and asked, 'Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep.' The crowd laughed at Him. But He made them all leave, and He took the girl's father and mother and His three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, He said to her, 'Talitha koum,' which means 'Little girl, get up!' And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around!"	QUESTIONS:
It's like Peter walks into that room in Joppa and he remembers and he does what Jesus did.	
He remembers that Jesus says, 'If you believe in Me you'll do even greater works.'	
So believe for the greater works that Jesus can do through you.	
Matthew 17:20 "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."	
Peter asks everybody to leave the room just like Jesus asked the people to leave the room.	
So why does Jesus do that and why does Peter do that? Because they know that if the people stay, their doubt might make it impossible for faith to do what faith can do when its unencumbered by doubt. He needed to change the atmosphere.	
Peter goes to Joppa because he's making room for God to do something powerful through him. Peter is making room for more of God.	
The reality is that life sometimes takes over and we can lose our passion for God.	
Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your	

spiritual fervor."

This verse presupposes that we can be lacking in spiritual zeal
and we can lose our spiritual fervor or it wouldn't have been
written.

God says keep your passion going.

2. Making Room for God's Purpose

And we can make room for God's purpose.

Philippians 2:13 "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."

God works in us to fulfill His purpose, what pleases Him. God energizes us and moves in our lives and gives us desire and power so that we'll actually fulfill our purpose for even being here and being alive.

2. Making Room For People

Matt. 22:37-40 "Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

As His followers, we're to love God with everything. With all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind. With everything. And we're to love our neighbours, other people, just like we love ourselves.

Galatians 5:14 "For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

James 2:8 "Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Jesus says the Law is fulfilled by two things, love God and love your neighbor.

QUESTIONS:

1. How can you know your purpose?

- 2. Is the purpose has for us the same for everyone?

- 3. Trying fulfill another person's purpose will bring frustration to you, why do think that is?

But Paul tells the Galatians that the Law is fulfilled by one thing, love your neighbour. And James, the brother of Jesus, says the same thing, that the royal law is to love your neighbour. For people who don't know Jesus, love God and love people is the right approach.

Love God first with everything and then love people. Love God, then love people.

But for those who already love God with all their heart, mind and soul, the focus goes off loving God because we already do, to loving people, connecting with people, making room for people.

John 13:34,35 "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."

1 John 4:20,21 "If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And He has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers."

It's interesting what Jesus prays in His final prayer for us.

John 17:20,21 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one - as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in us so that the world will believe You sent me."

This is about connection. This is about unity. Where there's unity God commands a blessing.

Putting it all together

1. There is always room for more. We still have room for more God. Maybe some of that space is right now being filled with things that don't contribute to strengthen our relationship with God and our faith. Example social media (our phones)

QUESTIONS: 1. What are the two commandment Jesus replies in Matthew 22:37-40?
2 Why is his response
2. Why is his response
directed to non- believers? How can you
know that?
Know that?
3.What does Jesus teach
to do with our
neighbors?

What is the benefit of making more room for God? More of him! Even the apostles like Peter continuously made more room for God. Spiritual fervor is a personal decision. Cry out to him, ask for him to restore your passion. Ask him to take you back your first love for him.

- 2. What is your purpose? Such a hard question to answer. But really the answer is not complicated or difficult to answer. Simply ask yourself, what skills has the Lord given you? What abilities seem to keep surfacing? What are you good at? What stirs you? What excites you? What puts a fire in your heart? Ask God to show you His purpose. Ask the Spirit to guide you. Start doing something and start this week. Serve at Bethel. Be the church. Serve at your school or work. Serve in a community organization. Like a ship, God can't steer you if you aren't moving. God has a purpose for you. So start making room for His purpose in your life.
- 3. Love God and love your neighbor. The first one is what we say, the second is how we show it. We can say we love God, but we don't see him. How can we show it? By complying with the rituals and religious schedule? Make sure you don't miss coming to church on easter and Christmas, be a good person, tithe/ give to the church, come to church every Sunday, etc. No. We do it by truly loving our neighbors. Specially those who don't love us back. If we love God, we will have the love to do so, and by doing so we will demonstrate that we are his followers and that he is real. Because our behavior is going to be so anti-world culture that people will have to recognize that we are being driven by something else than what the world has. Something superior and stronger. That something is Jesus.

	Action Clair C.
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ACTION STEDS:

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What are the two commandment Jesus replies in Matthew 22:37-40?
- 2. Why is his response directed to non-believers? How can you know that?
- 3. What does Jesus teach to do with our neighbors?
- 4. Why is this important?

5. Can you love God but not one of your neighbors?