

JUNE – “Systems Change”

Ideas and new opportunities, even those that are very needed, are nevertheless new to any system and thus are resisted by them.

OPENING PRAYER. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God, You created this universe. It is a wonderful gift, amazing to behold. Keep us in balance and safe when changes happen and relationships are strained. Bring us past the confusion and frustration to a new place that is safe and familiar again. Amen

READ: John 4:39-42

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

Church That Works, Part 16 “Systems Change”

“To comprehend events and processes in any ministry, we need to understand how people actually work together. One way to grasp how people, families, and close-knit groups function together is to see them as *systems*.” (p. 246)

ASK

1. Why is it so good when things remain the same? What is it so good when things change?
2. How would/does your congregation react to a change in, for example, worship time?
3. Are you a change agent or a comfort seeker?

DISCUSS

1. “A popular story that has circulated among leaders tells of a young traveler who came upon a laborer fiercely pounding away at a stone with hammer and chisel. The traveler asked the worker, ‘What are you doing?’ The laborer answered, ‘I’m trying to shape this stone, and it’s backbreaking work.’

The traveler soon came upon another man chipping away at a similar stone, who looked neither happy nor angry. ‘What are you doing?’ he asked. ‘I’m shaping a stone for a building.’ Came the quick reply.

The traveler went on and before long came to a third worker chipping away at a stone. ‘What are you doing?’ The worker smiled and replied, ‘I’m building a cathedral.’

We are not just carving a stone, we are building a cathedral where God’s love will shine as Jesus intended it to.” (p. 253)

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA

Ask God to bless your congregation through the summer months

JULY’S DEVOTION. “Growth“. Who will the leader be?