

## MID-WEEK REFLECTION 6

*“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we value building God’s people”*

### GETTING STARTED:

Describe one thing that you did this week to share your faith.

### DIGGING DEEPER:

**Joshua 24:14-16** *“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

New beginnings are not possible without letting go of the past. Spiritual new beginning is made at the point of realization of our sins and praying, “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.” Joshua appealed to the Israelites to make a new beginning and put away their gods of the past and put their trust in the Lord.

**Question:** What gods are in your life? What ambitions have you striven to achieve? What desires have you sought to realize? What do you fear losing? Joshua made it clear that we all need to choose who we will serve. Who are you serving?

**Question:** How would you rate your spiritual life? Is it about the same as it always has been? Has your faith grown over the last year? Are you open for God to help you to spiritually grow?

**Romans 7:14-17** *We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.*

**Philippians 3:7-11** *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suf-*

*ferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

**Question:** Why is Christ so important to Paul that he calls what he used to consider profit rubbish? Why were Joshua and Paul, who lived at different times and had such different lives, so passionate about serving the Lord?

**Question:** What motivates you to serve Jesus Christ?

**Philippians 3:12-14** *Not that I have obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 3:17-21** *Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly body so that they will be like his glorious body.*

**Question:** Our hopes determine what we do and what we live for. What is your hope for the future?

### **APPLICATION:**

When we take the hand of a child and walk across a busy street, we would never depend upon the child's grip on us but our grip on the child's hand. The same is true for God's grip on us. Paul said he pressed on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of him. It is not our taking hold of God that is our certainty for the future but his grip on us and his love for us.

### **CHALLENGE:**

Take one step toward grasping the future God has prepared for you, whatever that step may be. "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." - St. Francis of Assisi