

Stretching the Sermon by Charlie Adams

December 27, 2020

The following are intended to help the reader reflect back on the previous Sunday's sermon and offers an opportunity to dig deeper into ideas, concepts and reactions that will stretch what you have already gained from the sermon.

How you proceed, or if you proceed, is up to you. You may find that writing out answers suits you best. There is also the option of simply responding without writing. Another option is to go through this with a spouse or friend. You need not worry, as you will not be graded on your responses. My hope and prayer is that you will find it useful.

Please keep in mind that the sermons can be accessed on the church site.

1. When pastor Melissa mentioned that even the clouds and stones praise God, I was sitting in the front row of Fellowship Hall. Suddenly, I looked out the window at the grass in front of me. I had never thought of the grass praising God before. However, if all of his creation does, then the grass must. For those of you who have pets, I challenge you to sit down with them, look them in the eye and picture them praising God. For others, find something created by God and contemplate how it praises God.
2. In your own life, what do you consider your strongest method of praising God?
3. "In praise, we fulfill the purpose for which we were created, which is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." How does one "enjoy" God in their lives?
4. My guess is that you have never been thrown into a fiery furnace as were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. However, you have probably had experiences in your life in which you were in a fairly desperate situation. Did you, as was the case with these three men, sense that God was there with you?*
5. Suggestion 1: Over the course of a day, a few days or longer, keep a diary in which you record something that you have just done that you feel would qualify as praising God.
6. Suggestion II: The next time you find yourself in a troubling situation, or are suffering physically or emotionally, let God know that you are not going to allow this problem keep you from praising Him.

* He was