

Sermon Notes

“Are We Holding Fast or just being Fascinated?”

FAST, FASTEN, FASCINATE. First two from same derivation. Last one has the word “ate” in it. 😊

Origin of Fast = (Old English *faest*)

Definition (1) Steadfast, not easily moved, strongly, vigorously, fast; (2) abstain from food or drink. (hold oneself from food)

Deliberately Experience Hunger as a demonstration of will, but different from a hunger strike. Why would God want us to be hungry (afflict ourselves Leviticus 16:29)?

Fast applies to individuals and groups / nations.

Crisis resolution (sorrow / mourning): Eg. David / Saul (2 Samuel 1:12)

Bathsheba’s son (2 Samuel 12:16ff)

****Ministry Plans: Acts 13:2-3 (Applies to VCCOC Sayre) ****

What would cause you / us to fast?

What caused Jesus to fast?

Matthew 4:2 And *after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*

Does Jesus want us to be hungry?

Matthew 15:32 Then *Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way. "*

Matthew 5:6 “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*”

What does Jesus teach us about hunger relief?

Galatians 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Confusion about what hunger relief has to do with Judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46

Who is being judged?	V. 32 The nations (Not the Church)
Who is being fed and clothed?	V. 40 Jesus’ brothers / Jesus
Who did Jesus send into the nations?	Mark 16:14,15
Who was Saul persecuting?	Acts 9:4
Who was Jesus talking to?	Matthew 24:3 Disciples

Conclusion:

Jesus holds the nations accountable to Church / Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus holds His Church accountable: Isaiah 58:6; Luke 24:46-48



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

December 3, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Today’s Sermon: Are We Holding Fast or Just Being Fascinated?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-4

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm December 6, on Zoom, Arthur will resume the study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the 8th chapter on R (repent).
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday, December 5. We will resume our study of Micah.**
- ❖ **Next Potluck & Bring-a-Friend Sunday – December 17.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing-** March 31 at Horseheads.



- ❖ **We are planning to invite the neighborhood to our December potluck meal and sing carols that afternoon. There will be a notice on the sign out front.**
- ❖ **We are beginning to explore the disciplines of prayer and fasting for inspiration.**



PRAYERS

- Pray for **Todd** as he begins his new walk in the LIGHT.
- **Please pray for Steve's brother Chris** who is suffering from depression, and for **his other brother Brian** who has prostate cancer. **Also, Steve's sister Deb** who has leukemia and has recently also been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she seeks treatment for the pain in her throat and esophagus. Also pray for her and Doug as they sojourn in FL over the winter.

Continue to pray for these people:

- **Dawn Cowles-** breast cancer- Pray for her surgery and care plan going forward.
- **Monique (Miki's friend)-** gradual withdrawal from morphine pain killer
- **Dennis (Miki's brother-in-law in CA)-** stroke
- **Bonnie's brother Greg** needs hernia surgery.
- **Pat Guthrie-**he has lung cancer, stage 4, wife Robin
- **Paulette-** Pain coming from her spine and affecting her hip and leg.
- **Mike Walls,** frontal lobe dementia, wife Carrie
- **Sue Barry-** stage 4 breast cancer. (remission)
- **Brian (Steve and Amy's neighbor's b-i-l),** who was injured by a falling log and is in a rehab center near Albany. His family are getting him an electric wheelchair.
- **Jim Sexton-** on Hospice care for esophageal cancer, wife Debbie
- **Steve Burger-** lung cancer, immunotherapy treatments, wife Judy

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.