



at St John

May 13, 2018

Sermon: “Where is Our Focus”

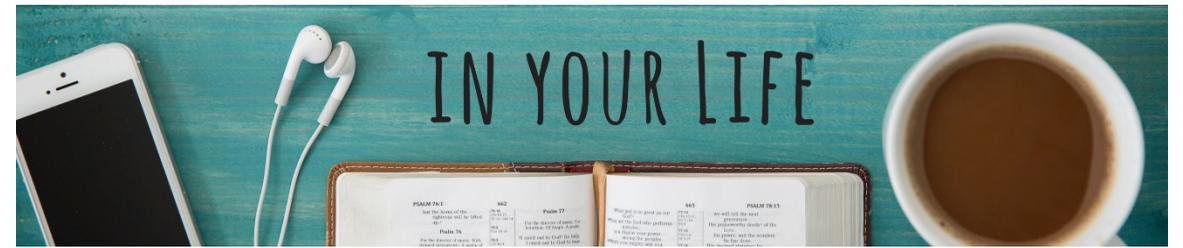
Ephesians 1:15-23

Where is your focus? We too easily focus on the day-to-day problems. Hard day on the job? Family life is falling apart? Friends seem distant? When we focus on what is happening now, we can feel so very alone. In our Scripture reading today Jesus leaves His disciples behind to go back to heaven. It appears that even Jesus abandons us?! Except . . . it is not what it appears. Jesus is not abandoning us. His visible presence is removed from us, but He is still present and active in our lives. Jesus ascends to heaven to *reign* over the entire universe for the good of His people. Shift your focus; we walk by faith and not by sight. Jesus has greater things in store for all of us.

Message Notes

Summary

Main Points:	
Bible Passages:	What can I apply to my life?
Next Week's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15, Psalm 139	



Daily Bible Verse take 5 minutes each day to be in God's Word

Monday: Psalm 2

Tuesday: Philippians 2:1-11

Wednesday: Revelation 5:1-14

Thursday: Isaiah 44:6-8

Friday: Revelation 21:1-7

Saturday: Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:44-53

Questions/Contemplation of the Bible readings

- How do these verses describe God? How do they describe how He works or relates to humanity?
- The Revelation passages can be overwhelming since they describe scenes in heaven and beyond our reality – but how can they be comforting as well?
- Jesus, as our King, gives us a mission to do while we wait for His return – what is our *primary* mission (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:44-53)?

Conversation with others

- Why do you think we lose focus on the mission (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:44-53) of the Church? What can we do to keep our mission in focus?
- We are not used to the idea of a king ruling over us – but that is the image and reality of Jesus ascending to “sit at the right hand of God.” How can this image of God be helpful in your daily life?

Prayer ideas/suggestions

- Thank God for His awesome power and rule, as King of kings, in our lives.
- Ask God to help you realize, or stay focused, on the reality that God *is* in control and *always present* rather than let the brokenness of this world overwhelm you.

Other Perspectives

- We don't have a king or queen ruling us in America, but we do like stories of real (The Crown) and fantasy (Lord of the Rings) kings and queens. Why do you think these stories are popular? How can these stories help us get a better picture of Jesus?