



May 6 - Epic Community: "Lean into Conflict"

Acts 6:1-7

God can work through conflict to forge redemptive outcomes. In conflict, He displays His grace blesses in unexpected ways those surrendered to Him. He did it on numerous occasions in the biblical story. One of those occasions was in the thriving first century church in Jerusalem. It was an epic community that was growing and powerfully influencing many lives in and around Jerusalem. In the midst of the growth and vitality, there arose challenge. There was conflict from outside the church, but the more formidable challenge involved conflict coming from within. We are told early in Acts 6 that a "complaint" arose. So how is the leadership of the church going to respond? How is the church going to move through this potential crisis? The story is fascinating. The church not only "got through the crisis," but the church experienced new levels of vitality later. Join us as we take a look at this instructive incident from church history that can teach us much about how to respond to conflict.

May 13 – "Mother's Day": 'Legacy'

II Timothy 1:3-7

Inheritance and legacy are similar in that they are gifts or investments we leave behind to in some way enrich those we love. Inheritance is something you leave FOR people. Legacy is something you leave IN people. While this is not an exacting differentiation, it can be helpful. On this Mother's Day we want to recall the lives of two women who left a priceless legacy in the life of a boy – a son to one of these women, and a grandson to the other. This boy, Timothy, grew up to be a gospel man and a leader in the first century church in Ephesus. Legacy is a remarkable dynamic. We want to pause today and thoughtfully consider the impact that moms and grandmas who are armed with sincere faith can have in the lives of their family. The legacy of a gospel woman can have transformational impact on those she loves.

May 20 - Epic Community: "Faithful to the End"

Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-60

Among the most compelling and challenging biographies in Scripture is the story of Stephen. He was a follower of Jesus who was "all in." In the face of threat and menacing opposition, he boldly spoke truth. Stephen was a man who did not pay much attention to being diplomatic if diplomacy meant he needed to compromise truth. He lovingly and straightforwardly spoke truth. He was a man full of the Holy Spirit – in fact, as we will see late in Acts 7, he was empowered and full of the Holy Spirit as he faced death. What kinds of qualities does God shape in a man who is faithful to the end – a person who could honestly and resolutely sing the refrain, "I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back – no turning back. Join us as we take a closer look at the life of a man who lived all out for Jesus right through the finish line.

May 27 - "Remember"

Mark 14:12-26

On this Memorial Day weekend we are reminded that freedom is never free. On a recall when we recall the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in military battle, we are also reminded of what Jesus did on our behalf. He willingly gave His life in order to secure for us inward freedom and peace with God. Freedom is never free. On the night before Jesus went to the cross, He established a memorial remembrance that has come to be called the Lord's Supper. As we reflect on that evening when Jesus gathered with his disciples around a table in an upper room in Jerusalem, we come to see that He insistently wanted us to regularly remember Him and this sacrifice He offered on our behalf. There is value in remembering – regularly, deliberately remembering that which is most important.

June 3 – Youth and Graduation Sunday

Youth Ministry Intern Evan Petras preaching

June 10 - "Finish Well"

Hebrews 12:1-2

Pastor Tim would say that for some time he has been measuring his life from the end and not the beginning. In some respects, life is a like a long race. In the midst of the race, it seems worthwhile to remember how important it is to persevere because the race can be long and wearying. Maturing followers of Jesus ask the question, "How do I finish well?" What kind of perspective can I draw from remembering those have run before me, and what is my focus that compels me to run all the way through the finish line? Wherever you are at in the race as a believer, and whatever your age might be presently, it is worthwhile to wonder about finishing well. You see time relentlessly advances. Eternity is just around the corner. It seems that those who live most wisely and fruitfully in the present are those who honestly ask the question, "How can I finish well?"

June 17 – Father's Day - "Incomparable Father"

Romans 8:12-17

On a day when we want to encourage men, we want to pause and look in the direction of the "Incomparable Father." In relating by faith to the Heavenly Father, there is the very real possibility that earthly dads will have enlarged or renewed capacity to be effective dads and grandpas to their children and grandchildren. Amazingly, we learn that God not only desires to meet us where we are at, but He also wants to **interact** with us. He wants to give to us a new **identity** that powerfully impacts the way we view ourselves, the way we care for others, and the way we approach God. He has prepared for those who believe a magnificent **inheritance** that can be enjoyed in measure now, and enjoyed fully one day. Interaction, Identity and Inheritance – these are gifts that God the Father offers His sons and daughters. It seems in the biblical story that as men embrace these gifts from "The Incomparable Father," their capacity for blessing others around them exponentially increases. God wants to meet us wherever we are at in our spiritual journey, and to share with us amazing gifts that accompany honest relationship with Him. Consequently, we become better equipped to meaningfully love and invest in the people around us – including those in our own family.