

Mt. Zion
BAPTIST CHURCH
LENT

DEVOTIONAL
WEEK 5 – The Problem with Parasites

Parasites have a bad reputation for a good reason. All they do is take. By definition, a parasite is a creature that latches onto a host and sucks a quantity of blood or nutrients at the expense of the host. It contributes nothing in the process. However, we can only be so upset with what a parasite does because it is only doing what it was meant to do naturally. Parasites were created to take away and never to give anything back.

Since we've engaged this brief biology lesson, ask yourself this question, "Are you a parasite?" When you evaluate your engagement with your family, friends, church, and community, are you always taking or do you ever contribute? Think about the last conversation you've had with a loved one, did you dominate the conversation? We hate to hold a magnifying glass over our actions, but it is needed at times. In this season, we have to evaluate if we act like the world revolves around us or are we contributing to the world around us.

It is not our nature to be parasites. God is not upset at the parasite's behavior, but God can be upset with us when we go against our nature. We are created to give, sacrifice, and contribute. Every blessing recorded in the Bible involves a sacrifice of some sort. The ultimate sacrifice happened with Jesus giving his life for us. During this Lenten season, challenge yourself to follow our nature and the example of Christ to be a giver and not a taker. Don't be a parasite.

Daily Scripture

Monday – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Tuesday – Acts 20:35

Wednesday – Luke 6:38

Thursday – Mark 12:41-44

Friday – Proverbs 3:27

Saturday – Proverbs 19:17

Daily Prayer

Lord, gift me with a heart to give. Grant me your perspective on how to treat others. As I live my life to do what's best for me, don't let me forget that my life impacts others. I want to make a great impact. I want to be the blessing you created me to be. Today, give me what I need to give the way Jesus gave. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Daily Growth

We are in OUR skin every day of OUR lives. Therefore, it's easy to focus solely on OURselves. While it is in our best interests to look out for ourselves, that doesn't mean we can't look out for others. By nature, we are called to be a blessing to others. A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. Be a giver.