



The Gospel According to John Video 9

Thoughts from Kennie Riffie on the Reading for Week of March 9: John 11:45 – 12:50

view the video at www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek9

Video Transcript:

My passage was John 11:45 through 12:50. And what surprised me so much about that section was how *many* different stories were in that section. John has a lot of the stories that I learned when I was going to Sunday school over the years, but *this section* has about half a dozen stories just in those few verses.

He says “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed, but if it dies, it produces *many* seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, but the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me. And where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.”



That hit home with me, because of the work that I do in the community. I feel like Christ’s life was about planting seeds. Part of what Christ is, is that we are supposed to die to self. And that’s what I try to remind *myself* of every day. That it’s not about me – it’s about living my life in a Christ-like way, as a representative in the community, and hoping that people will see Christ through me. And perhaps they will come to know God through Christ and through my work. And if I can, in any way, be that seed that’s planted, that helps someone to grow – to grow in their faith or to help someone desire to know more about God and Christ – then I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing.



I guess servanthood always strikes me more as one of those things that you do for the people that *don’t have*, because we are the ones who *have*. So, in the Bible studies, what I get out of it, is that, continually, my life is to be about servanthood, and my life is to be about helping people who *don’t have* – because *I have*. I have – and so I need to reach out to them and I need to *give*. I need to give of my time, and my abilities, and my money, all of the above. To help people understand – to help them out in their circumstances, but also to help them understand that there *is* hope and that there *is* a different *way*, and that there is a God who loves them and a Christ who died for them.

So that’s really how I see us positioned as a church. It’s not “We are a *great* iconic building, and *everybody* knows First Baptist”. But, it’s who each one of us *is* when we go into the community to talk with them, and to work with them, and to *love* them. *That’s* what this church is, and who this church is.