

Media and Graphics Notes

Word of Witness Video?	There is a video to be played at Joys and Concerns for Oil and Gas Sunday.
Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	There is one video near the beginning of the sermon and one near the end.
Other Notes	

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about how we might share our discipleship pathway and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because sharing our faith and knowing what to share is an essential part of living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the final sermon in the series, Discipleship #1: Oil Fields and Faith. It is preached on the Sunday following the Oil Centennial Celebration.

What are the next action steps?

Take the words of Paul to our time and place – become all things to all people, so as to save some by all possible means.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that God sent his only son in response to the reality of sin and darkness in our lives. Jesus comes to win us over by love.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Share
 2. Changing Lives
 3. Sharing Christ
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. 1 Corinthians



17th Sunday after Pentecost
Discipleship #1 - Drilling for Innovation
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1g1JfAr>

September 20, 2015
1 Corinthians 9:19-23
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,949
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1VmB8fA>

3. Tags

1. sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, share, evangelism, witness, faith,

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1 Corinthians 9:19-23, CEB

Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them. I act like a Jew to the Jews, so I can recruit Jews. I act like I'm under the Law to those under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law). I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law (though I'm not outside the law of God but rather under the law of Christ). I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

[Play sermon starter video.](#)

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Story

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to be a judge for the oil centennial parade. It was a beautiful day for parade – just the right temperature, beautiful sun and a lot of

people there to see the parade. Now, I was one of the judges for the float so part of what my job was determining who should receive an award. There are all kinds of things I can make a parade great. So here is my question for you – What makes a great parade?

[Hear responses from congregation]

Those are all part of a great parade.

Every one is offering their particular contribution to make an excellent parade. No parade entry is quite the same, Yet they are all working for the same goal – a great parade.

Transition

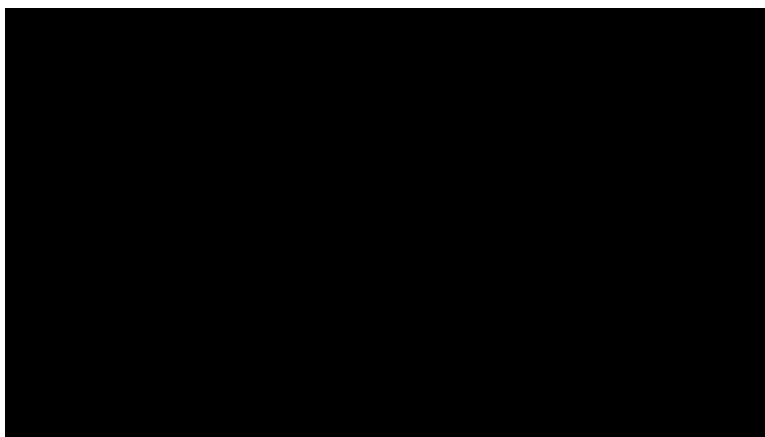
Today, we take a closer look at the same idea in oil exploration. Warren Martin, Executive Director of the Kansas Oil Museum, shares with us about innovation today. Let's take a look...

Video Illustration - Cable Drilling

Common Goal

Oil Exploration

The early oil explorers in Butler County were all trying to reach the same goal, yet there were many different ways to reach the same goal.



Church

The same is true in our life together as a church.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We share this in common with other United Methodist churches around the globe. However, this common mission is adapted to a particular context.

Discipleship Pathway

This series has been designed to help us better understand the particular way that First United Methodist Church of El Dorado seeks to make disciples and how you can continue to grow as a follower of Christ throughout your life.

Share

This is the final week of the series and our focus is on sharing our faith. One of the tools that you need to share your faith with others is to have a good idea about what it is that you are sharing.

Transition

Let's go back to review each week of the series to remind you of where we have been and what it is that we seek to share with others.

Legacy - Legacy of an Oil Boom

Butler County

We began this series with the Legacy of an Oil Boom. We considered the legacy that we have received from those who have come before us in Butler County. What happened 25, 50, 100 years ago continues to shape who we are today.

Congregation

As individuals and as a congregation, we have received a legacy as followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus sent his very first followers on a mission to make disciples of all nations. This mission was carried forward over hundreds and thousands of years. This particular church was founded 146 years ago.

Leave a Legacy

We have the opportunity and responsibility to leave a legacy for the next generation...

A legacy of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

A legacy of transforming the world so that El Dorado is a little more like God's kingdom because we are here.

A legacy that you, me, all of us, actually live like disciples.

We are part of the legacy of those who have come before us here at this church and the legacy of those whom Christ who sent to go and make disciples. We are filled with the same Spirit.

Transition

We continued our series with the focus on our discipleship pathway which invites people to worship, grow, give serve and share.

First, in worship.

Worship

Foundations of Oil Hill

We remembered the Foundations of Oil Hill and how this entire community was raised in a very short amount of time. Eventually, nearly everything was gone.

Two Builders

This connected with the story of the two builders – one built a house on sand and the other built their house on solid rock. They both experienced a storm. One house stood and the other fell.

Discipleship Pathway - Worship

Our expectation for worship is that you are in worship every week unless you are sick or out of town.

Worship has the power to change us – to make us more like Christ.

Worship reminds us of our place in the world and brings humility.

Worship also brings us closer to God and closer to one another.

Transition

The next week we continued with the opportunity to grow in faith outside of worship on our own and with other people.

Grow

Fossils, Fuel and Faith

Geology was an important tool for the discovery of oil in Butler County. This marked a transition for oil discovery from being mostly luck to being one where science was applied for successful outcomes. It was an effective tool.

Study the Scriptures at Berea

We considered the story of the early believers in Berea who studied the scriptures every day to see if what they were being taught was true.

Discipleship Pathway - Grow

On your Own

Our expectation for growing in faith is that you are engaged outside of worship growing on your own and with other people. The disciplines of reading the Bible and praying are two of the key ways to grow closer to God on your own.

With Other People

You also grow closer to God when you are connected with other people – Sunday School, the Alpha Course or Invitation to the Old Testament

Transition

Two weeks ago, Warren Martin was our guest preacher. He helped consider serving others.

Serve

Warren Martin - Guest Preacher

Discipleship Pathway - Serve

Our expectation for serving is that you are spend time at least once a year serving others inside the church and outside the church.

Inside the Church

This might mean being part of a team or committee, helping make worship happen on Sunday or caring for children on Sunday or during the week.

Outside the Church

We also invite you to use your gifts to serve outside the walls of the church. You can donate to our clothing or food drive, participate in MLK Day of Service or help out with FirstKids Serve.

Transition

Last week, we considered our invitation to give financially to support God's work through this church.

Give

Fossils, Fuel and Faith

The discovery of oil in Butler County had an impact far beyond our communities. Oil wealth was used as a catalyst for the aviation industry in Wichita. Being in the right place at the right time has made an impact for generations.

Esther - Right Place at the Right Time

The story of Esther from the Bible is also one of being in the right place at the right time.

Discipleship Pathway - Give

Our expectation for giving is that you give in proportion to your income with the tithe or 10% being the goal. Every dollar that you give to the church helps us accomplish our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your giving contributes can be part of making God's plans for El Dorado and Butler County a reality. God's plans, our hands.

Transition

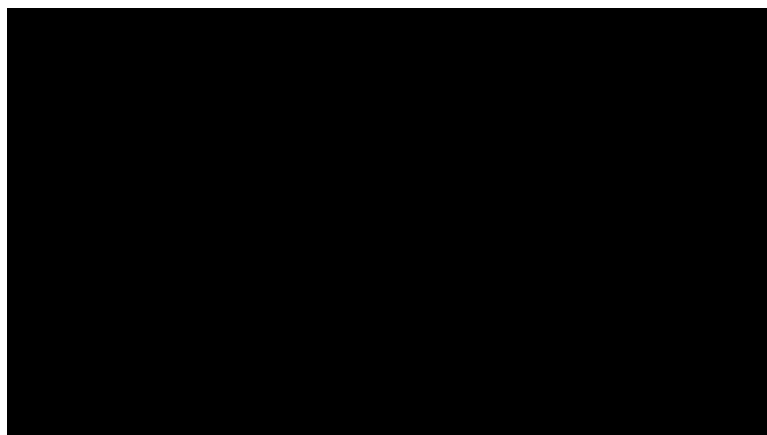
This brings us to today and the invitation to share our faith with others.

We find one illustration in the story of our history from Butler County. Let's take a look...

Share - Drilling for Innovation

Mission

Our mission as a church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This mission remains essentially unchanged from the time of Christ. It will be the same into the future.



Discipleship Pathway

The way that we talk about being a disciple as someone who seeks to worship, grow, give, serve and share. This is very similar to the way that people have sought to follow Christ for generations here at this church:

- Gathering for worship
- Growing in faith with others outside of worship
- Giving financially to support God's work
- Serving others with our time
- Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

These practices will remain the same into the future.

Yet, how we do them will change.

Faithful and Relevant

Our task is to be faithful to the good news of Jesus Christ and relevant to our time and place.

Transition

This gospel does not change.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God sent his only son in response to the reality of sin and darkness in our lives. Jesus comes to win us over by love.

Life - Jesus and God's Kingdom

Jesus grew up, called disciples and taught us what it is like to live as part of God's kingdom. He showed us what it is like to live as one of God's own children.

God's kingdom is a place in which:

- The first are last and the last are first.
- The sinners who repent enter before the righteous people who are filled with false virtue.

God's kingdom is:

- Like a wedding banquet to which all are invited and yet some ignore the invitation.
- Like a father who waits for his messed up son to come home. When he does, he throws a party and celebrates

This is the kingdom that Jesus proclaims. It turns the world upside down by love.

Death - Jesus takes on evil

For some, this was too much to take.

Jesus was a threat and he was put to death on a cross.

When Jesus is hanging on the cross, all of the evil from the beginning of time to the end was placed on his shoulders. When Jesus died, he descended to the heart of darkness and evil so that he could leave those things behind and drag us out – from darkness to light.

Resurrection - Hope for Eternity

On the third day, Jesus rose again and reigns forever with God

This brings us hope for the future when Christ returns. There will be a day when there will be no more sorrow, no more pain and no more suffering for the old will have passed away. Christ lives today and will live forever.

Resurrection - Hope for Now

The hope of the resurrection is not just for some time in the future or at the end of our life. It has real meaning, right now. We can live as a part of God's kingdom today – in our everyday life.

God offers us the opportunity to experience a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control. This is the life that God offers as we follow the resurrected Jesus.

Call to Action

This is good news.

This is why Paul writes to the church at Corinth:

I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.¹

When we share our faith, we do it for the sake of the gospel.

Take the words of Paul to our time and place – become all things to all people, so as to save some by all possible means.

I act like those who run their business...
I act like those who work for an hourly wage...
I act like those who live in nicer homes...
I act like those who live in not so nice homes...
I act like those who go to church...
I act like those who do not go to church...
I act like those who others respect...
I act like those who others look down on...
I act like those who are rich...
I act like those who are poor...

Invitation

Share your faith for the sake of the gospel, so you can be a partner with God.
Together, we can help make our community look more like God's kingdom.

Closing Prayer

Will you pray with me?

¹ 1 Corinthians 9:22b-23, CEB.