



THE TREASURE OF COMMUNITY

WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

*“A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common”
(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)*

“Technology is seductive when what it offers meets our human vulnerabilities. And as it turns out, we are very vulnerable indeed. We are lonely and fearful of intimacy.” (Sherry Turtle, Alone Together)

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.” (Matthew 4:18-22, NIV)

“When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’ Another disciple said to him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’” (Matthew 8:18-22, NIV)

“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me,’ he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice. ‘For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’” (Matthew 9:9-13, NIV)

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.” (Matthew 10:1-4, NIV)

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“When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’” (Matthew 20:24-28, NIV)

OBSERVATION POINTS:

1. Jesus lived in _____
2. Lots of people _____
3. The goal was to _____ & _____ like Jesus

“The kingdom of God and the community of Jesus are the same thing” (Scot McKnight)

REDISCOVER THE TREASURE OF _____

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1, NIV)

BARRIER 1: _____

“Eventually, hyper-individualism creates isolated, self-interested monads who sense that something is missing in their lives but cannot even name what it is.” (David Brooks, *The Second Mountain*)

BARRIER 2: _____

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

BARRIER 3: _____

“There can be no vulnerability without risk; but there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community.” (M. Scott Peck)

REDISCOVER THE GIFT OF _____ **&**

“Community is woven through love-drenched accountability.” (David Brooks)

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:13-14, NIV)

QUESTIONS TO ASK OURSELVES:

1. Do you live in community?

2. What’s withholding you from it?