



<b>DATE</b>	August 12, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Self-centered to Others-centered
<b>SERIES</b>	Stuck in anxiety? Trapped by guilt? Bound by consequences? Your future can be greater than your present. With God's help, you can undergo a metamorphosis and emerge from them free to experience the abundant life you're meant to live.

In this sermon, Pastor David said that the topic "Self-Centered to Others-Centered" rates as one of his 'Top 3' in importance. American poet Maya Angelou also commented on this subject:

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back."

Should you be doing less *catching* and more *throwing something back*?

1. Can you think of a time when your Self-Centeredness made you blind to the needs of others? What could you have done differently in that situation?
2. Are you procrastinating trying to meet the needs of people who God has placed in your life? If so, in what ways could you "open your eyes" more fully to those around you and get your focus off of yourself?
3. Pastor David's sermon was based on the story of the woman at the well. Jesus took the time in the heat of the day to have a conversation with her and she came away believing that He might be the Messiah.
  - a. Have you ever had a similar experience when you took the time to listen to someone and thereby, opened a door spiritually in their lives?
  - b. By talking with the woman, Jesus broke boundaries that his entire society lived by. As a Christ follower what are some norms in today's society that we must break in order to bring the kingdom of God here?
4. People tend to be *less* self-centered toward the needy around Thanksgiving and Christmas than other times of the year. Why? If so, what can be done to make giving of yourself (in all forms, not just materially) a year-round habit?
5. How do you help a person in need (monetarily or otherwise) without offending or embarrassing them? How do we help someone without coming across as being superior to them?

6. Do you feel that others find you easily approachable when they need your help? If so, what are you doing to foster this characteristic of approachability? If not, what can you do to make yourself more approachable?
7. Pastor David said that "Open Your Eyes" are very important words. What do they mean to you? Which areas of your life do you need to see differently?
8. Do you see yourself as "Self-Centered" or "Others-Centered?" Are there any areas you need to change or improve upon? Share any specific examples or life experiences.
9. Is there a balance between your "Vertical Relationships" and "Horizontal Relationships?" Are you drifting/bending toward one type of relationship more than the other? What steps do you need to take to correct any imbalance?
10. One aspect of "Others Centered Living" is to "Own God's Plan A." What does this statement mean to you? How does your life plan fit into God's purpose for your life? Are you struggling between your plans vs. God's purpose? What steps can you take to bring them into alignment?
11. Do you agree that most of us have a natural gravitational pull towards ourselves? How have you felt this tendency in your life? What can we do in our daily lives to be more "Others-Centered?"
12. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-20. If God is making his appeal through us, take a moment as a group to discuss how you can be intentional in your daily living and how you can have your "Eyes Wide Open" to His purpose in both your life and to those around you.
13. Did this series bring any (Meta) significant change in your outlook on the aspects of life challenges that we studied? What was the most significant for you?

Pastor David reminded us that when we practice Self-Centered Living, we procrastinate on the needs of others. In James 2:15 – 17 we find the following advice: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well: keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."