

“...EMPOWERING PASTORS & LEADERS OF IMMIGRANT CHURCHES REACHING THE WORLD”

NEW ROOTS MINISTRY

TWO WAYS TO CARE FOR YOURSELF

Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat (Mark 6:31). God said, “You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your

God....For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested”

PASTORS, BE SURE TO GET ENOUGH REST, FREE-TIME, AND VACATION.... LET’S REMOVE OUR “PASTOR HAT” AND JUST BE GOD’S LAMBS....

(Exodus 20:9-10, 11).

I don’t know about you, but I appreciate that both God the Father and Son encourage us to rest. This can

be called self-care and often us pastors are not so good at it. I know many of you work 5 or 6 days/week at



Smithfield Foods, or at other places, and then you still need to write a sermon, lead worship on Sunday, care for your congregation, or even manage a non-profit ministry. I admire your strong work ethic, your love of the people in your congregation, your passion for sharing the Gospel, your clear dedication to God! But, without adequate rest, as well as occasional vacations away from our churches, we can become tired and weary of our call, we can develop a bitter attitude,

Come to All Nations City Church annual picnic! (*information on the “Multicultural Night” flyer enclosed*) **PLEASE LET YOUR PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THESE GREAT EVENTS!**

- **Friday, August 25 from 6—8pm**
- **At Sertoma Park on west 49th St.**
- **Good music, food, and fun!**
- **Please bring food--if possible, a meal reflecting your country!**
- **5:30pm—teens picked up by Lifelight to go to Youth Night at Ramkota (*information on the “Attention Jr. High and ...” flyer enclosed*)**

and our sermons can become stale. So, my first point is to get enough rest!

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July 14, 2017

My second point—reflect on the joy and truth of the Gospel for yourself, personally, before preaching it. This thought recently came upon me after I wrote and preached a sermon on Luke 15:1-7. It's about the



shepherd leaving the 99 safe sheep in order to find the 1 lost lamb. I wrote the sermon with the perspectives of being one of the safe sheep and being a

shepherd. However, if I only have those perspectives, not only is it arrogant, but I then do not appreciate the full measure of God's grace and goodness. Therefore, I lacked some joy and passion for the passage.

I have now been changing my approach. My perspective is first that I am one of the lost and broken lambs whom Jesus rescued and loved. In fact, he continues to redeem and rescue me as a lamb because it is a life-long process, even as I am presently also one of the 99 safe sheep, and even as I now work as a pastor/shepherd seeking the lost.

So, let's first remove our "pastor's hat" and just be God's children/lambs who personally experience God's love and grace, and the joy and peace it brings. Let's do that with every Bible passage we read and preach on. The people of your congregation will then see and hear your personal joy and passion, and how it is truth for you personally. They will then want more of it.

Thank-you, my friends, for your faithfulness as pastors! I pray that God blesses you, your families, and your Gospel work!

Fred Wilgenburg, Director & Pastor
New Roots Ministry
225 E. 11th Street, Suite 203
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
sfnewroots@gmail.com
(605)376-6330