

Awakening – sheltered middle class life focus – so many life distractions

War – daily fear that people experience. Children are at risk – water/ food.

We are outward focused – helping the community versus inward focused group taking care of its members.

Paying attention when we are involved with our own daily life.

Awareness – step one: focus going towards action and not trying to cure everything. Focus on injustice that you are awakened to.

Need to focus outward. Inward focus is self-serving; outward focus increases relevancy of church; inward focus churches die off.

Cannot attend to God's justice if only inward focused, but need to care for those in church for them to be affective in outward focus.

Sadness: homeless individuals; war and needless killing; drug epidemic; basic necessities lacking in school; naive government officials; what is said about other countries by government officials.

Need to be an outward looking church

A basic realization: everyone needs clean water; everyone expressed their heart was broken by something.

Awakening to justice does require focus.

Sadness: lack of access to water and food.

Both inward and outward focus needs to be there.

Perhaps we focus on a fewer number of items, not enough time to address all.

Sadness: children around the world without clean water access.

The key is living what we believe.

Attending to issues of God's justice involves awakening, focus, and renewal.

Sadness: innocent shootings and killings

Sadness: police killings; disrespect for police authority.

Outward focus is important and not just issues in the congregation. If the congregation has problems, then they should be addressed before going to help others.

Attending to issues of God's justice involves awakening, focus, and renewal.

We had discussion on what an outward or inward church is.

Note: We all need to follow and practice the Golden Rule.

Note: Communication w/congregation on what goes on here. i.e.: Auburn School District, Asian congregation.

President's remarks: Does this reflect our nation?

Because we invite homeless guests in, aren't we both outward and inward looking?

We are aware of all the needs and despair. It all becomes overwhelming and it is easier to shut down.

We become more aware of other peoples' problems and are better able to help more people if we are not just focused on ourselves (our church).

Sadness: desperate people in desperate situations. Children deprived, unloved, innocent.

Being outward focused: exposed to different people, issues, and get a broader perspective.

Sadness: homelessness, hunger, unemployment.

There is more growth in being outward focused. Small groups could be focused on issues of interest.

Sadness: refugee camps, discrimination, function of congress, lack of respect.

Sadness: our president, little kids suffering child abuse, kids with high expectations but don't want to put work in, kids without food or shelter, what changed from when we didn't have homelessness?

Being a generalist is better than getting too focused, fine line between being merciful and being taken advantage of.

We get pulled away from focus by being too busy.

Sadness: is the fear of a next attack – unsettling.

Outward focused churches, taking care in the community, are observant, see need for meals, clothes, etc.

Focus in on ways we can contribute, not letting the enormity of justice issues put us off.

We tend to talk about issues and problems instead of talking about real people.

Can we solve or understand his justice?

Sadness: world hunger and killings: not sure how to solve, but need to appreciate the issues that we have.

Sadness: natural disasters and the education needed to be prepared.

Greater worldwide outlook needed. Keep out of Olympia.

Sadness: poor children I see when watching TV, who are in need of clothes and food.

Sadness: homeless and starving kids, discrimination, intolerance of one another, education costs and those who drop out of school.

We need both an individual and broad focus on issues. Benefiting both individuals and communities is important.

Awakening, focus and renewal are all important for God's justice.

Sadness: child trafficking, slavery, not enough resources to do something about the terrible things that are going on in the world, poverty, disease, lack of food and water.

I realize that when my heart is broken by these things it is God speaking to me.

We need a balance between being inwardly and outwardly focused. Believers need to both grow in faith and service.

Focused or general? A balance between the two: prayers should address specific tragedies and injustices during the past week.

Sadness: shootings, lack of respect, rude drivers (angry people), homeless and hungry children, physical incapacities.

We choose who we do and don't talk to, such as the homeless people right here in our church. Need to work to see both sides of an issue. Watch media from different perspectives; what we watch influences what we believe.

Sadness: inequality, Puerto Rico struggling after disaster (what do we do besides LWR?), children having to walk miles for bad water.

There's a lot of range in how far inward and outward. We do many service projects, still maintain our friendships, and yet don't bother with the people outside our door.

Sadness: abortion and misuse as contraception.

We tend to get so hung up on our own beliefs that we forget to listen. Although, it can be good when people are more outspoken.

Sadness: Agreeing to disagree is so hard! When people speak out without thinking about the consequences.

It's easy to be inward focused.

Seeing both sides and being okay with being uncomfortable.

Thinking about what breaks your heart leads to awakening, focus, and renewal.

Sadness: hunger, child abuse, young death.

A congregation should be outward focused: take care of community; meet physical then spiritual needs.
Church members must be comfortable coming to church and reaching outward for the mission to be a success.

Give more clarity on justice.

The realization of true poverty, no food, no water, must result in action.

We realize that there is great sadness, and the noise of society drowns it out.

Sunday is inward focused and other six days are outward focused.

When we come together, and talk directly to one another, we can focus; the distractions go away and we can make it personal.

People want to be better than others and others are not or do not feel welcomed. Groups tend to marginalize people. Need more love!

There is a "I need folks to think like me attitude", but how do we get people to see all angles?

Homelessness and food bank are ways we help people; economy is good but homelessness is higher and the opioid crisis is not good. Help people to help themselves.

We need to focus and let god in. Move away from feeling bad – it can make it easy to lose focus.

Sadness: Children with health issues, nutrition, orphaned, water, hygiene, and education.

Does an inward focusing church still fulfill Jesus' mission? Because a group/church can't tackle everything.

Sadness: homelessness

Church should be outward focused

It requires all three: awakening, focus, and renewal for us to be able to attend successfully

Inward focus loses the ability for growth as a church

Focusing on general justice allows us an opportunity to see and do things where we are needed in more than one area.

You don't need an awakening to do good. But you may need one to push you to do good if you are not so inclined.

Sadness: homelessness

Outward focus seems to have greater staying power and creates a better inward community because of that focus.

Sadness: bad leadership. Things said that shouldn't have been said. Homelessness and hunger. Drivers cutting you off. Lack of sharing and caring.

Having community meal guests here raises a question for us: Do we really want them here?

Renewal: Christian music stations have doubled. Focus can include other denominations within our church. We know justice but not mercy.

Art/Church: How can I use my art for the sake of the church?

You don't need money to help people who need money.

Inward focused churches are creepy

Sadness: world being divided. People seeking help but getting little. Human nature: fear, sadness, guilt.

Outward church: make people feel welcome, second home, get rid of "they".

Inward church: focused on its merits.

Inward love before outward love to all. One must love self before one can love others.

Don't let things that bother me overshadow what is right and put into practice what I can do. Pay attention.

Find the balance between inward focused and outward focused church.

We are all God's children. Money is not the fix for everything.

Phones are a distraction! Leads to not being aware!

Balance of inward and outward focus.

Sadness: children are suffering.

Overwhelming problem is unequal distribution of wealth.

Do we do enough to relieve suffering? Foodbank and community meal?

Should church have such a large building?

Sadness: women being assaulted. Children suffering.