

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Date: June 12, 2022

Speaker: Reverend Chelsea Waite

Sermon Title: *Making Your Mark*

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Summary:

The sermon focused on the testimony, writings, and teachings of the Apostle Paul to engage issues self-determination and reliance, identity and the presence of God as influencers on “Making Our Marks” in this present world. Reverend Waite defined our “marks” as our unique representation or authentic-self appearances in our everyday lives. She noted about 80% of all children have “birth-marks” yet 100% of believers in Christ have the unique mark of the Holy Spirit. Every Believer is called to present his/her God-given uniqueness in their lives. Spelman College’s former President Dr. Jonnetta Cole confirmed this point when she once said; “the greatest gift you can give is giving who you are.”

In the text the Apostle Paul writes as one who has given himself in the service for others. In fact, he’s writing while imprisoned for preaching the gospel to people in need. Paul advises the Philippians not worry about him but rather work out their own salvation in the Lord. While experiencing the deplorable conditions of a Roman satellite prison, Paul was given grace to realize, “whatever state he was in,” to be content. This realization didn’t come easy but through the hardships he’d experienced. Through it all, the Apostle Paul came to say: “I can Do All Things through Christ who Strengthens Me” His faith is an inspiration to all of us; confirming we too can make our Mark in this World.

Making our mark requires:

- 1) Contentment with the plan of God for our lives**
- 2) Knowing the source of our contentment is God; and**
- 3) Recognizing that there are no secrets to living-out the plan of God for our lives (it’s plainly revealed in the word of God)**

Reverend Waite exhorted us to embrace mental health resources as part of God’s plan for protecting our children and ourselves as we make our marks in the world

Making our marks in the world involves healthy acceptance of us coupled with spiritual insight into God’s plan for our lives.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Have you made your mark on the world? Explain your answer.**
- 2. How do you know when you've achieved "contentment?" Have you learned to be content in whatever status/situation you are in?**
- 3. What does it mean to be able to do, "all things through Christ?" Are there limitations, if so, what are they?**
- 4. Does God allow us to achieve beyond our limitation? How?**
- 5. Are children predestined for greatness or developed through the people around them? Explain.**