



## sermon notes

The Masterpiece of Your Personality

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### Where we have been thus far:

- **God has never made a copy.**
- **Each of us has a Kingdom Purpose.**
  - **Spiritual Gifts**
  - **Heart**
  - **Abilities**
  - **Personality**
  - **Experience**

### I. God often meets us in and through the personality of someone else.

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.*

Matthew 7:15–20 (NRSV)

- Always ask this question related to personality:  
How do I \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel?
- Some pitfalls of personality:
  - We strive to be someone we are not.
  - We let personality be the means to some \_\_\_\_\_.

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Psalms 139:14 (NRSV)

- God's grace can work a masterpiece out of even the most \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of our lives.

### II. What does God look for when it comes to personality?

*"Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."*

- What does God desire in a king?

*When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” . . . He sent and brought [David] in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.* I Samuel 16:6–13 (NRSV)

- God values a personality most informed by our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Personality in the church is not always about the obvious, standout qualities in a person.
- When it comes to our personality, the \_\_\_\_\_ are God’s to define and not our own.

### **III. Personality and our relationships with others**

*Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* Luke 5:15–16 (NIV)

- \_\_\_\_\_ we share the gospel is not limited to the outgoing or the reserved among us.

*James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”*

*When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:35–45 (NRSV)

- It is not that our unique personalities are unwelcome, but at times, we have to \_\_\_\_\_ those who relate to others differently.

### **IV. Personality inspires us to respond to God-revealed opportunities**

- Each opportunity in ministry that we have is a \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
- God can use our personalities to work in and through pressing decisions, hard life choices, and times of grief.

*But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.* Ruth 1:16–18 (NIV)

- To act upon the Spirit of God’s call in our lives is to allow our personalities to be vessels for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A personality that reflects God is one that is \_\_\_\_\_ for all the right reasons.