

TakeNote

Pastor Shawn Thornton—
Weekend of **August 21–22, 2021**

Consumers or Contributors: The Spiritual Practice of Community

—Mark 2:1–12

Part 3 of the “Journey: How to Walk with God” sermon series

Spiritual Practices:

Intentional behaviors, habits, or disciplines that help us walk with God and be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The Practice of Community:

We experience deep, lasting, satisfying joy when we see ourselves within the church family as contributors for the good of others rather than consumers for our own good.

We grow best when we value others the most.

That means that there are times we simply choose to belong so others can belong.

People who belong so others can belong...

1. Take personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of others

- Consumers focus only on getting themselves closer to Jesus;
- Contributors focus on getting others closer to Him too

2. Choose to engage with others knowing it can get messy

- Consumers avoid relationships that complicate their lives;
- Contributors pursue relationships even if they offer more risk than reward

3. Leverage all that they have and are for God's work in other people

- Consumers settle for seeing a part of what God is doing in the lives of others;
- Contributors invest in being a part of what God is doing in others

4. Prioritize the needs of others above their own

- Consumers complain if their needs aren't satisfied first;
- Contributors celebrate when the needs of others are met before their own

5. Notice people others overlook

- Consumers pass people in need on their way to Jesus;
- Contributors can't get past people who need Jesus

Everyone needs someone.

Whose someone are you?

Next Steps:

- 1. Join a small group**
- 2. Have a conversation about connecting**
- 3. Pick a friend or two for the journey**

Resource to help you cultivate the spiritual practice of community:
CalvaryWestlake.org/walk