

Let us pray,

Lord, open our hearts to you and the very breadth of your existence, so we may experience your fullness here on earth.

Amen.

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Lets talk about the concept of Holy Curiosity.

Albert Einstein, you know the famous German Scientist.

E=mc<sup>2</sup> guy.

Yeah, that guy.

Talked about never losing a Holy Curiosity.

Its important to understand that Einstein was not a Christian, nor was he a person of deep faith in one particular flavor of religion.

But what he was definitely not, was an atheist.

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He was what we would call Agnostic today, no firm belief or unbelief of the existence of a god or multiple gods.

He purely was just open to the possibility of all realities being possibly true.

Albert Einstein talked about how sometimes we can get so caught up in seeing many trees, that we forget to acknowledge the forest.

Meaning, sometimes we get so lost in the details that we forget about the bigger picture.

In a quote from Life Magazine in 1955 he said:

*“Never lose a holy curiosity. Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value. He is considered successful in our day who gets more out of life than he puts in. But a man of value will give more than he receives.”*

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I fear that many of us have lost this mentality.

Success today means about having the most stuff, the most awards, the most money, the most “you fill in the blank”.

But for those who are spiritually enlightened, Christian and non-Christian alike, have always promoted this idea that success doesn't look like self indulgence, but self emptying.

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In modern day America, this concept of self emptying, giving more than we receive, is regrettably foreign and even scoffed at.

We as a society have unilaterally determined that if we don't have more than others, than we have failed as a citizen.

If we don't have a big home, lots of money, lots of cars, and electronics, or any type of thing that we find important.

Than we somehow have failed at the American dream.

We have confused the American dream of the pursuit of happiness with the pursuit of consumption.

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*“Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.”*

How do we become people of value?

How do we show the world what true happiness, true joy looks like?

How do we show the world that Christians are not close minded people, but people who are called to be the most open minded, the most open to new possibilities, the most open to that which is impossible.

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We are a people who believe in the resurrection of the dead.

We are a people who believe that this world is not the end.

We are a people who believe that through self sacrifice, we may find true happiness and salvation from self centered sinful prisons.

We are a people that should be the most Holy Curious.

People who say no to success for the pursuit of values.

Values of love, forgiveness, mercy, grace, redemption, reconciliation, salvation.

We are a people who should be the most open to new possibilities, new ways of living and loving.

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We are a people who should be living not of the world, but in it.

Meaning we shouldn't allow the world to shape us, but that we may shape the world through following Christ.

And we don't do that by just telling others what they should and should not do or believe.

But we do this by living a certain way, that shows the world that the way of obsessive consumption, self-absorption, success obsessed living, is not the way to true happiness and joy.

But the way to true happiness and joy is through the love and mercy and self sacrifice of Jesus Christ and his followers.

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We have a choice to be people who are Holy Curious.

People who are open to all the ways that God is presenting Godself to the world.

To be open to the wonders and awe inspiring aspects of this beautiful creation.

To not get bogged down by the details but see the beauty that is all around us when we take time to step back and be grateful and awestruck.

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I am grateful for you all, I am grateful that you still come to church, still watch online, still have a desire to grow closer to being Jesus centered.

I am grateful to have you all in my life, and I am grateful that this story of mercy, forgiveness and eternal life, is not dead, yet surely alive.

I am grateful for Holy Curiosity and the freedom that we have as Christians, to believe and trust in the absurd, the extraordinary and the down right crazy.

Because a life that only cares about the details, about the ones and the zeros, can easily forget about the beauty and

the holy of what the details look like when when we step  
back or zoom out.

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Lets remember to be a people of value over success.

A people who never lose their curiosity, a people who see  
beauty in the chaos, who don't get bogged down by the  
mundane, yet take time to sit and zoom out, and see the  
good our Lord has made and done.

Amen.