

Sermon Discussion Questions, September 18, 2011
Think Local: Why Changing the World Starts in Your Backyard, Week Five
Being Aware of Pockets of Pain

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Selected Scripture

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE – Pain is a pathway to humility and insight. Gen.3:8-21; Numbers 4:1-4, 12:1-3; 1 Chronicles 28:3, Psalm 131; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

1. How has God used pain to produce character in your life? What did you learn from suffering?
2. What are biblical examples of people in pain? What do you learn from their examples?

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION – Pain is a pathway to primary greatness.

*Secondary greatness lasts only in this world and primary greatness lasts into eternity.

3. How is Jesus the ultimate example of secondary and primary greatness? What are the answers we might offer our generation when they face painful situations?

MISSIONAL RESPONSE – We need to ask, “Where are the pockets of pain in our community and how can we provide hope?”

4. How do you respond when you see individuals or groups of people in pain? Why do you respond in that way?
5. Where are pockets of pain in our community? Do you see yourself as part of the solution? How?
6. What new opportunities for service are there and how might you be able to reach out to these people? How might you be able to provide hope to those in pain? Be specific as you brainstorm individually or as a group.