



The Boys In The Boat

July 28, 2024 Message Notes
Romans 12:3-7

NOTES

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”

Matthew 24:6

“Of the past 3,400 years of human history, only 268 of them have not seen declared war—only 8 percent of human history.”

“What Every Person Should know About War” – NY Times Article

Boys in the Boat takes place in 1936 but gives a window into our lives today and the rise of individualism.



“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.”

Mark Twain

For these young men, rowing wasn’t an athletic aspiration; it was a job.

Joe Rantz, abandoned by his parents, had to learn early on how to pick himself up to find a better life.

That boat would become their haven, their family and their place of purpose.

“Each seat on the boat has its own purpose, like eight separate parts of the same great racehorse.”

To run at maximum power, each man must row for the sake of the boat—not for himself.

These words speak to the essence of a healthy, faithful church.

“Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” Romans 12:3 NLT

The healthiest church is a community—not a building or an institution—but a community, where each individual receives according to their need and contributes according to their strength—for the benefit of all.

To reach maximum power on our church boat, we need to begin with an honest evaluation of our own heart.



“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” Psalm 139:23–24

“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:4–5 NLT

The New Testament paints a vision of the church that belongs to one another, relies on each other, serves one another, worships together, listens and learns with each other and disagrees without dishonoring. Jesus taught his people to love those who are not yet part of his community and welcome those who want to participate.

This way of faith and leadership counters every cultural value associated with autonomous individualism.

God created us for fellowship - for deep, intimate connection and for family.

When each rower is swinging together, the sum of each man on the team becomes greater than the whole, but we only get there when each person does the necessary heart work.

The church is the living congregation of the living Lord Jesus Christ.

How did Jesus live?

- Full of ‘truth and grace’ - John 1
- A justice seeker - John 2
- A peacemaker - John 8
- A healer - John 9
- A servant - John 13
- A name caller - John 20



“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” John 14:12

When the church rows together ‘as-one, as-one, as-one,’ we roll into a swing motion that far exceeds anything that we can do apart from one another.

We all reach that point from time to time when we want to give up on the boat - especially if we feel hurt. But true resilient strength chooses to ask: “What if I stayed?”

“It’s not about you. It’s about the boat.” And it’s not about you, it’s about Jesus and staying connected to Him.

The only way that team held together was through committed interdependence. And, like them, each person here belongs to each other.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. **I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one**—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”
John 17:20–21

When we row together, we show all those who see us on the water the love and salvation of our Jesus.

The world needs what we have to offer through Jesus now more than ever.
Don’t give up the boat.

