

**"THE SINGLE GREATEST GIFT"**

John 4:7-26

Messiah April/May Series

April 29, 2012

Pastor Nathan J. Thompson

Have you ever been in a group of people and noticed someone sitting alone, and in your heart you felt a prompting that you should go over and talk with that person, and yet you chose to avoid that feeling? Have you ever felt a nudge to go and reach out to someone you know is hurting and yet you neglected this opportunity?

I'm sure that each one of us here today could confess times when we missed an opportunity to reach out to someone else. And I'm sure that there have been times when you have rationalized that at least you had good intentions or that you had a good excuse.

Well, my friends, this morning and a few Sundays after confirmation we are going to talk about how each of us can do a better job of reaching out to someone else. We're going to lift up some ways that can hopefully help you walk across a room, visit with someone new or even an old friend, and possibly share with them the love and hope of Jesus our Savior.

And yet the first thing we need to get rid of is the attitude that some of you may have that you could never do this or that you are somehow exempt from God's call. We need to dispel that false idea that Lutherans are somehow exempt from this.