

We gather to be emptied.

(Luke 7:39-50; John 4:22-24; 1 Peter 5:6-7)

God desires that we come as we are ready to pour out before Him our very best and very worst. It's only when we are honest with our hurts that God can heal our wounds.

And then we are refilled.

(Matthew 5:6; Psalm 16:9-11)

It is when we empty ourselves before God that God fills us with his blessing of abundance.

The Spirit of God becomes a source of nourishment and refreshment.

So that we can be poured out.

(Mark 14:24; John 17:15-19; Philippians 2:5-8; Ephesians 1:7-10)

Why does God fill us? Why does God bless us? So that we can, in turn, bless others.

As we pour ourselves out onto the world, we participate with the Holy Spirit as we follow His lead.

We participate with Jesus who *kenotically* (“self-emptying”) pours himself out for the world.

We participate with Father God by advancing His Kingdom.

Don't be a pitcher of old water.

Food for thought:

Talking over the message helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps.

Read Luke 7:36-50

This is an incredible story of unashamed love. Interestingly Jesus' applauds the “outrageous” act of worship of this harlot and saves His critique for the ones who seems to have their stuff together (vs. 44-48).

What does Jesus reveal to us about the kind of worship God is truly interested in?

Why is it that we often feel that we need to come to God clean before we can approach him (take a bath before we get in the bath)?

Are there areas in your life that you have kept from pouring out before God because they seem to mucky?

Read Philippians 2:5-8 (The Voice)

5 In other words, adopt the mind-set of Jesus the Anointed. Live with His attitude in your hearts. Remember: 6 Though He was in the form of God, He chose not to cling to equality with God; 7 But He poured Himself out to fill a vessel brand new; a servant in form and a man indeed. The very likeness of humanity, 8 He humbled Himself, obedient to death—a merciless death on the cross!

The phrasing “poured out” in this text is the greek word, **kenosis** (ken-o-sis). It means, in its most basic form, self-

emptying. This sort of self-emptying love is the sort of love that Jesus displayed on the cross--the kind that led to the Resurrection event. It is also this sort of self-emptying love that Jesus talks about when he says, "If you want to live you must die," "If you want to gain life you must lose it." It seems that God's Kingdom is a Kingdom that is characterized by persons who are committed to this "self-emptying" way. This way is suppose to be the way and mission of the Church.

Why is this sort of love so difficult to grasp? What does this revelation of *kenotic* love say about how our culture often thinks about love?

Commit this week to:

Show self-emptying love toward: your spouse
your neighbor:
your children/siblings:
an enemy or rival: