

Sermon Notes – October 14, 2018

Review

- ⇒ Matthew presents Jesus as “the Christ” – the anointed One, the long-awaited & often-promised Messiah, and as “the Son of David” – the Davidic King promised in II Samuel 7. This gospel account is loaded with references to OT Scripture!
- ⇒ We appreciated how Jesus enters our broken world, a world full of scandal, deception, cruelty, & tears, to rescue & redeem all who trust Him. Jesus confronts hypocrisy – and He loves people.
- ⇒ Two weeks ago we were introduced to the “Gospel of the Kingdom.” We looked at the book of Daniel & the prophecy of Isaiah. We saw that while there is a literal kingdom yet coming, as the King of the Kingdom, Jesus brought the Kingdom near.
- ⇒ Last week with Pastor Tyler we watched the Battle of Kingdoms that took place in the temptation of Jesus in the desert when He was “tempted in all things as we are.”

Today’s Text: Matthew 4:12-25

Today’s text introduces us to Jesus’ ministry in Galilee that includes preaching, proving His identity by healing the sick, and calling disciples to follow Him. As Jesus makes abundantly clear later in a very sobering text (**READ 7:21-23**), “following” is more than a matter of saying the right words or “signing-off” on a creed or doctrinal statement. What DOES it mean to “follow”?

Jesus Came as “A Great Light” in the Darkness

READ Matthew 4:12-17

- ⇒ As we saw in past weeks, Matthew’s gospel is “aimed” at its closing paragraph that includes what we call “the _____,” the famous call to take the gospel to the nations. How strategic, then, that in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, Jesus’ ministry begins in “Galilee of the Gentiles”.
- ⇒ As with John the Baptist, Jesus calls people to REPENT – to _____ their sin and to set aside _____ in their credentials, heritage, or good works, trusting solely in God’s provision for salvation (remember 3:9).

What Does It Mean to Follow?
Matthew 4:12-25 Pastor Jay Mosser

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

READ Matthew 4:18-25 (Cf. 4:23 & 9:35 – similar summaries of ministry)

- ⇒ The gospel narratives give various accounts of Jesus calling His disciples (see John 1:35-51). The calling in this text is clearly a call to _____, possibly subsequent to other prior contacts. As the gospel narratives demonstrate, the “following” of the disciples is different from the “following” of the crowds.
- ⇒ Following JESUS is always about the _____ of Jesus Christ, not simply accepting a moral code or liking a church or giving mental assent to a creed or hoping to go to heaven or living in America. (Cf. Mark 3:14 – “with Him.”)
- ⇒ Following Jesus is about joining Him in His _____ – calling the nations to Himself. Jesus uses a metaphor that quickly connected with the local culture & with the common fishermen He was addressing. **“You know how to catch fish. Follow Me and together we will catch people for God.”** Here again, the connection with the Great Commission could not be clearer!
- ⇒ Please note: Jesus is not diminishing the value of their “normal work”; rather He is calling them to see life & people & the world through _____.

Response to God’s Word

- ⇒ Jesus still calls us to follow HIM; “to be **with Him**” is always first.

Question: Is YOUR faith focused on a real relationship of trust in Christ and joyful pursuit of Him, or have you shifted toward a focus on a religious system or a moral code or certain doctrines?

- ⇒ Jesus still calls us to join Him in His Plan to call the nations to Himself.

Question: Whether you teach or build or sell or organize or serve – or fish – is your focus on “catching people for God” – that is, pointing men & women toward a Savior who loves them? Are you following Christ in His mission?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Did you ever jump into a pile of leaves when you were a kid? Do you have any memories of the smell of burning leaves (people used to do that to get rid of leaves before yard waste recycling arrived)? Are there other fall activities you plan to do?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Re-read the text (Matthew 4:12-25) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. Matthew mentions that Jesus “heard that John (the Baptist) had been arrested.” Why do you think he mentions that, and what do you think that event meant for Jesus?
3. The quote from Isaiah 9:1-2 uses a familiar analogy, that of light vs. darkness. What other texts in the Bible come to mind that use the same figure of speech, and why is it so powerful here in referring to Christ?
4. Here’s the theme of repentance once again! Why do you think repentance is such a key factor in preparing to welcome God’s Kingdom? Why not, “Get excited!” or “Throw a party!” Why “REPENT”?
5. Jesus calls several fishermen to be His disciples. In Matthew’s account, Simon Peter & Andrew are actually fishing, and James & John are mending their nets when Jesus calls them. All of them “immediately” leave their fishing to follow Jesus. What do you think they understood about Jesus’ call to follow Him? Do you think they ever regretted saying ‘Yes’?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

6. Read Matthew 10:24-39 and 16:24-28. In both texts Jesus speaks about the necessity of “taking up your cross” (as in, an implement of bloody & painful death) in order to be a disciple of Jesus. What do you think He meant by that, and do you think that Jesus’ disciples would have hesitated to follow Him if He’d spoken like that when He initially called them?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship: October 21, 2018

“God’s Kingdom is Right-side Up, Not Up-side Down”

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ Great Commission ▪ grieve ▪ confidence ▪ discipleship ▪ person ▪ plan ▪ new eyes ▪