

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

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Truthview Alliance Church

Matthew 19

And the question of the day is ...? Any given day Jesus could expect someone to come with a question, sometimes an honest one but most often one meant to trip him up. It's amazing to watch him field these questions. With an insight only the all wise creator of heaven and earth could possess and with the care and compassion only the fountain of love itself could manifest he points the way to the true intent of God's heart on matters that confuse and divide us.

As Christ's ambassadors we too face questions our culture hurls at us. The question of our day is also a question of marriage. The Saskatchewan courts recently legalized same-sex marriage. What are we to say about the matter?

Just as Jesus did, we too must point to the foundation of values and truth. God had a plan and purpose for humans when he created them and when we fulfill that purpose we will know God's mind on the matter at hand.

Jesus points back to creation to answer the question about marriage and divorce. The problem in our society is that we are disconnected from the original plan and purposes of God. Our appeal to creation and God's word will be met with skepticism or even disdain. But this is where our opportunity lies!

Everyone draws the line on sexual practice somewhere. The question then becomes: "Why do you draw the line where you do?" Only the answers Christ gives, those connected to the very purpose for our existence, will truly satisfy. Only they will provide the sound foundation upon which families and culture may thrive.

FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

Kingdom Principle #4:
*Jesus transforms me as I surrender control of my
Kingdom issues to the Holy Spirit.*

Memory Verse:
*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

Divorce/Marriage/Singleness - Matthew 19:1-12

Passage Preview

Jesus is questioned about the legality of divorce. In response, Jesus explains God's original intent for marriage and how He calls some to a single lifestyle.

Key Words

- Adultery: Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their spouse.
- Eunuch: A castrated male.

Read Matthew 19:1-12

¹ When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

⁴ "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?" ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

⁷ "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

⁸ Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

¹¹ Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹² For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

1. What spiritual truth stood out to you? Why?

2. What was God's original intent for marriage?

3. Why was divorce allowed under the Mosaic teaching?

4. **Kingdom Questions:** What reason does Jesus give for a person voluntarily remaining single?

If you are single, have you considered the possibility that this is God's long term will for your life? Explain.

If you are married, what are you doing to accept, encourage and incorporate singles into full participation in your fellowship?

Summary

Jesus' teaching bypasses the interpretations of man and goes to the core of God's eternal intent. For those who by faith have become followers in God's kingdom, the restoration of His intents can become a reality in their personal life and the corporate life of their fellowship.

Prayer

Father, we recognize that our hearts are as hard and deceitful as those of any generation. All we can do is call on your mercy for forgiveness and on your grace to help us understand the intent of your heart. We ask for your strength to follow the purposes you reveal to us in your word. Amen.

Tuesday

The Little Children - Matthew 19:13-15

Passage Preview

Jesus emphasizes the importance of children and uses them as an example to provide a kingdom illustration.

Key Words

- Rebuke: To express sharp, stern disapproval
- Hinder: To cause delay, interruption, or difficulty in accomplishing a task.

Read Matthew 19:13-15

¹³ Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

1. What spiritual truth stood out to you? Why?
2. Why do you think the disciples would rebuke those who brought the children to see Jesus?
3. How are you influencing the lives of children for God?
4. **Kingdom Question:** Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like these little children. What are some attributes of children that would prompt Jesus to say this?

How does your life reflect these attributes?

Summary

Adults put on the guise of personnel sophistication, social or economic position, and political or even theological correctness. Jesus asks us to learn from those whose trust and love is simple and pure, little children.

Prayer

Jesus, help us to really do what you are asking us to do here. Help us to value and protect those little ones you put in our path. And more than that, help us to learn the lessons of the Kingdom these little ones offer us. Amen.

Wednesday

The Rich Young Man - Matthew 19:16-26

Passage Preview

Jesus addresses the central Kingdom issue of a young man of great wealth.

Key Words

- The Commandments: Refers to the 10 commandments given to Moses by God (Exodus 20:1-17)

Read Matthew 19:16-26

¹⁶ Now, a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

¹⁷ "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

¹⁸ "Which ones?" the man inquired.

Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false

testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbour as yourself.'"

²⁰ "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

²¹ Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Thursday

The Last Will Be First - Matthew 19:27-30

Passage Preview

Jesus explains His reward system for those who surrender all for the sake of His kingdom.

Key Words

- Renewal: To restore or replenish.

Read Matthew 19:27-30

²⁷ Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

1. What spiritual truth stood out to you? Why?
2. What special promise did Jesus give to the 12 disciples?
3. What promise does Jesus give for all who sacrifice to follow Him?
4. **Kingdom Question:** What are some areas of service for which you receive recognition?

Would you continue to serve if no recognition were given? Are you able to accept the recognition without becoming puffed up about it?

What criteria does God establish for the rewards that He gives? (Psalm 51:16-17)

Summary

It is hard for us to distinguish between the trappings of religion and a heart that is surrendered to Christ. Many whom men honour will be last in God's kingdom because God sees through all that and sets first those who are truly surrendered to Him. Thus many who are looked down upon by men may be first.

Prayer

Father I ask that your love may be my sole motivation for service. May I look so intently at your face of love and find there such complete satisfaction, such complete fulfillment and joy that nothing else will ever seduce me. May knowing you and doing your will completely consume me so that nothing else will have any allure. Let me do all for your sake. Amen.

Friday

"No Formula"

Read Chapter 18 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

Formulas. We've all got them. Some are for success. Some for riches. Some for relationships. Usually they're ideas we've boiled down into a quick easy way to go about life in our hurry-scurry worlds. Sometimes they're helpful. Other times they boil the true meaning right out of the pot, leaving it empty.

1. List a couple of reasons why using a pre-designed presentation of the gospel can be a problem.

2. Say you're critiquing Jesus on how He shared the Gospel with the "Rich Young Ruler." What would you point out to Him that he did wrong, based on our modern formulas?

3. Wealth is relative and can be measured in a number of different ways. Where was Nicodemus' wealth?

Where is your "wealth"?

Position ____ Connections ____ Abilities ____ Appearance ____
Intellect ____ Friends ____ Other _____

4. The author addresses three evangelistic encounters Jesus had, showing how He confronted the same issue with all three people, but applied a different approach in each case. What was the common issue?

What were the three approaches?

A.

B.

C.

5. Think of three people in your life right now. Following the pattern established by Jesus, write down their names, then identify the issue separating them from God. Then pray about some ideas you could use to get at that issue, and write them down.

6. How would you answer the person who says, "Hey, repentance isn't necessary, all you need is faith. Just look at the thief on the cross!"?

Summary

We need to be able to make a Biblical presentation of the Gospel, communicating what Jesus has accomplished by His life, death, and resurrection. When asking someone to respond to this good news, we need to remember that one size does not fit all. We need to be discerning, asking God by His Spirit to bring that person's kingdom issues to the forefront, so that they will understand their need to face these issues and surrender their will to God in repentance.

Saturday

"The Best Example of Faith"

Read Chapter 19 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

FAITH. How do you know if someone truly has it? What can you do to measure it? Some might say it is impossible to measure or quantify faith, that it's an intangible. But is that true? Not according to Jesus! He made it clear that our response to His authority was a great indicator of the level of our FAITH.

1. According to Jesus, the best example of someone with genuine 'faith' in all Israel wasn't a Jew but Gentile. Why did He set him up as the standard of what it looks like to have real faith?
2. What insight does Jesus' life and teaching give us about the Godhead's response to the issue of authority? Explain your answer.
3. What was it that probably influenced Karl Marx to come to the conclusions he did about Christianity?
4. What steps can you take to safeguard yourself against becoming the type of leader or parent who produces non-followers?

These TELOS materials have been adapted with permission from the "Follow Me" discipleship Curriculum produced by North Shore Baptist Church in Bothell, WA and based on the book Follow Me by Jan David Hettinga and the gospel of Matthew.

This week's editor:
Don Friesen

5. Stop and think about the last Bible teaching you heard. What were the responses going on in your heart? What do those thoughts and responses reveal about the faith/authority issue in your life right now?

Summary

The author states, "A person under authority is a person of great faith." If we miss the mark and don't actively recognize that kingly authority of Jesus, then the teaching of Romans 13:1 to be subject to governing authorities, those written to children to obey their parents in Ephesians 6:1, and the admonitions to wives to be in submission to their husbands in Ephesians 5:22-24 become subjective teachings that I can obey or reject depending on social trends. It takes great faith to daily trust God's sovereignty in these areas.

Kingdom Principle:

Complete Kingdom Principle #4:

Jesus _____ me as I surrender control of my _____ issues to the Holy Spirit.

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

Kingdom Principle #4:

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Memory Verse:

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26