

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 11

It's always exciting to have a new and different class in college, especially when that class is with a great teacher whom you admire and do not want to disappoint. That was the situation this past semester as I had signed up for the Homiletics (preaching) class with Bill McAlpine.

The class was great and as anxious as everyone was to begin molding and crafting their sermons there were a few notes to go over on how to properly construct one. The next few classes were informative and gave a lot of helpful hints on how to compose a good sermon. Everyone was feeling confident until the warning; Professor McAlpine sternly cautioned us that what we were about to do was proclaim the Word of God and attention to accuracy and truth should underlie our efforts. This comment didn't really bother anyone as we thought that it was a pretty obvious conclusion. God's Word should be taken seriously and presented as such.

Flash forward to the day that I was to give my sermon. I presented it with all of the confidence that I had at the time, knowing that I had put in a lot of hard work to craft it. Even directly after the preaching I had no second thoughts, but then I started to remember what Professor McAlpine had said and I started to worry. What if I had said something that was wrong or didn't make sense, or even worse, was complete and utter heresy? I would feel awful that I had presented God's Word that way and would probably lose the respect of a teacher that I admire.

Well it turns out that that didn't happen. I received a great mark and a lot of compliments including a few from Professor McAlpine. It's funny how a seed of doubt can creep into your life and throw things off. John experienced a similar seed of doubt in Matthew chapter eleven and while in prison sent a few of his followers to question if Jesus really was the Christ even though John had proclaimed him to be.

FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

“Faith must always be a man’s own personal response and can never be the mere mechanical repetition of what has just been said.” *E. Schweizer*

Imagine for a moment living at the time of Jesus and hearing the book of Isaiah being read in the synagogue: Read Isaiah 29:18-19; 35:5-6; and 61:1, then decide for yourself whether or not you would believe Jesus to be the Messiah based on what was happening at that time.

3. John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out as "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29), now sends his followers to question Jesus. What was the question John was asking?

Have you ever had a time of questioning? Explain:

4. **Kingdom Question:** Jesus cites good works and good news as evidence of his divine kingship. Why do you think he mentions these?

Summary

While in prison John started to question whether or not Jesus was the actual Messiah, something which he had previously proclaimed. He sent his followers to question Jesus but instead of admitting outright that He was the Christ, he told the followers to tell what they were witnessing. This left John to decipher for himself whether Jesus was the Christ and develop a stronger faith in Him. What kind of “good work” is God calling you to? As you examine the passions in your life, what gives you ultimate satisfaction in serving your King?

Prayer

Lord take a hold of my life and forgive me for often second guessing your sovereign power in my life and the lives of people around me. I pray that through the study of your Word my faith will become unshakable and doubts will cease to rise.

Tuesday

Jesus Honors John the Baptist - Matthew 11:7-15

Passage Preview

John the Baptist was a kingdom messenger who paved the way for the King. Jesus held John up as an example to follow and yet explained that someone who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

Key Words

- Elijah: Literally, my God is Jehovah. An Old Testament prophet who courageously and passionately followed God. It was prophesied that he would return to prepare Israel for the Messiah.

Read Matthew 11:7-15

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in king's palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears, let him hear.

1. What stood out to you? Why?

2. How do you think Jesus felt about John the Baptist? What do you think Jesus values in his followers?

3. **Kingdom Question:** Why did Jesus say that "He who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John?" CLUE: Luke 1:41-44, 66, 76-80 - John was singled out for special attention from the Holy Spirit from infancy. What effect should that fact have on your kingdom commitment? What do you think it means to be great in the kingdom of heaven?

4. Jesus did not try to rescue John from martyrdom at the bloody hands of King Herod. Since that time, many hundreds of thousands of Christians have been persecuted and killed for their faith in Christ. Does the seeming lack of protection for His followers indicate that the loving affection of Jesus isn't worth much? How can Jesus love us with an everlasting love and still allow us to suffer?

John was more than a prophet (v. 9), not because he held some higher office but because he had the privilege of announcing the fulfillment of all prophetic dreams. He stood on the threshold of the coming kingdom. (*NIBC: Matthew* by Robert Mounce, pgs. 103-104). Read verse 10 again.

Summary

What drew people to John the Baptist was not trendiness or position in society. Jesus expresses His admiration for His cousin and friend based on his prophetic declaration of God's truth. This is what drew people to John.

Prayer

Lord God, help us to be humble messengers of the good news of your Son. We ask that you will guide our hearts to boldly declare your truth to all who haven't heard.

Wednesday

Repentance: The Appropriate Response to Miracles - Matthew 11:16-24

Passage Preview

The fickleness of the masses created a callousness to the kingdom message, as Jesus turns up the intensity of His teaching several notches with the use of words like denounce, woe, and repentance.

Key Words

- Wisdom: Good judgment, penetrating discernment
- Denounce: Condemn, accuse, vilify
- Miracles: Divine acts, supernatural manifestations of power
- Woe: Trouble, tribulation, torment, agony
- Repent: To turn from independent self-rule and submit to God's kingdom rule

Read Matthew 11:16-24

¹⁶ "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners".' But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ²¹ "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

1. What stood out to you? Why?

“Relinquishment of burdens and fears begins where adoration and worship of God become the occupation of the soul.” *Frances J. Roberts*

2. What “tax-gatherers” and “sinners” are you a friend of? What kinds of intentional steps do you need to take to reach out to non-believing people?

3. What have you repented of since becoming a follower of Christ? How has ongoing repentance become a part of your life?

4. **Kingdom Question:** The Kingdom message has the authority of the King (the name above all names) at its center. How has the supernatural work of your Master been demonstrated in your life? Are there on-going evidences that your Christian life is supernatural in origin and process?

Summary

The need for human response to the obvious existence of God's ownership and leadership of His universe is made clear in this passage. The light was bright in these communities. The power and authority of God was inescapably demonstrated to the people. Yet they refused to respond in repentant faith. For this rejection of God's King and Kingdom, judgment was predicted.

Given the all-pervasive spread of God's word in our nation, and this principle of responsibility - how will Canada fare in the final analysis? Your city? Your family? Yourself?

Prayer

I pray Lord that you will help me to see more and more of Your power and authority in my life every day. I ask that you will forgive me for my often unrepentant heart and that I will have faith that You will supply me with all that I need.

Thursday

Soul Rest for Weary Followers - Matthew 11:25-30

Passage Preview

Children have high receptivity to God's kingdom. Jesus uses children as an example of the type of humble faith and simple trust He's looking for. Jesus then addresses our critical need for soul rest in the midst of our chaotic world.

Key Words

- Weary: Fatigued, spent, worn-out
- Burdened: Weighted, loaded, stressed
- Humble: Unpretentious, gentle, without arrogance
- Rest: The peace experienced by being yoked to Jesus.
- Soul: Spiritual part of a person

Read Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At the time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"When he says to your disturbed, distracted, restless soul or mind, 'Come unto me,' he is saying, come out of the strife and doubt and struggle of what is at the moment where you stand, into that which was and is and is to be-the eternal, the essential, the absolute." *Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

Humble King
By Brenton Brown

Oh kneel me down again
Here at your feet
Show me how much you
love, humility
Oh Spirit be the star that
Leads me to
The humble heart of love I
see in you

You are the God of the broken
The friend of the weak
You wash the feet of the weary
Embrace the ones in need
I want to be like you Jesus
To have this heart in me
You are the God of the humble
You are the humble King.

1. What stood out to you? Why?
2. Why do you think God reveals things to those of child-like faith and hides them from the wise and learned?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "You will find rest for your souls."?

4. **Kingdom Question:** Jesus, our King, says he is gentle and humble in heart. How does that influence your desire to follow his leadership? In following His footsteps what kind of an ego will you develop?

Summary

The leadership style of our world focuses on power, authority, and manipulation. Although God has all of the power and authority the leadership of Jesus focused on humility and gentleness. How can you model Jesus' leadership style to those He has given you to lead?

Prayer

Lord, show us what it means to be your humble servants help us to be friends to the weak and embrace those in need. Give us your heart to love them as you love us.

Friday

“Wiping Away God’s Fingerprints”

Read Chapter 10 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

“God is dead”, the famous outcry of the enlightened of the 60’s, declared the very idea that there is a God to no longer be necessary. How convenient. The evolutionists provided a “scientific” basis for this proclamation that God never existed. The creation is god. How perfect. If creation itself is the only god there is and I am the highest form of creation, then that makes me. . .

1. Think of a time when you were a child and you were guilty of doing something wrong. How did you try to cover your tracks?

2. Why would anyone purposely try to hide or conceal the truth about God’s role in creation?

3. How have they taken the clear communication of God about His work and His plan and made it so confusing?

4. How could they possibly get people to buy into such a way of thinking? What do they use to persuade the masses?

5. Explain what the wrath of God, as spoken of in Romans 1:18, actually amounts to.

6. How have you personally experienced the wrath of God? When did He let you do your own thing? What have been some of the results?

Summary

The author states, "As you are pondering what you've been reading here, you are hearing a voice deep inside. God is whispering truth in love. A warm breeze is thawing out a corner of your heart."

Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, says in John 16:7, *"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."*

Now if you have experienced the warmth of a corner of your heart beginning to thaw, just think of the joy of surrendering your entire heart to the Holy Spirit for a total meltdown!

Kingdom Principle

Complete Kingdom Principle # 2

Jesus _____ me to the _____ that sin is
 _____ and _____ - _____.

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:
Aaron Barrington

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.

Skill 6: Asking Significant Questions, Part II

Application

Jesus was a master at asking probing questions that forced people to think and to seriously consider who He was. As we seek to influence our friends for Christ, we need to learn how to ask questions that matter.

Write down five questions that would stimulate discussion with a non-believing friend. Pray for an opportunity to ask one or two of the questions sometime during Unit II. Be prepared to share with the group what happened.

Example: What do you think is the purpose of life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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

Kingdom Principle:

Jesus leads me to understand that sin is intentional rebellion and self-absorption.

Memory Verse:

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30**