

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

Volume 9 Number 3

Truthview Alliance Church

Matthew 22

One of the greatest days of my life was my wedding day. When I look back on that day I recall the feelings of delight and anticipation. It truly was one of the greatest days of my life.

Jesus opens Matthew 22 with a parable of an invitation to a wedding banquet. He is inviting all of us to a wedding. I'm going. I've put my trust in Jesus, believing that He died for me, and I have accepted the payment for sin He made for me. The sad thing is that there are many that have not accepted this invitation. Have you? There is still room. Reply now! Don't wait!!

Further in the chapter, Jesus is confronted by different groups working at tricking, trapping, and framing Him. Jesus quickly detected their hypocrisy and challenged them on it. My desire and prayer is that, when hypocrisy is pointed out in my life, whether through the work of the Holy Spirit or through fellow Christians, I would have the discernment to deal with it and allow God to change me.

The Pharisees did not give up trying to frame Him so they chose a lawyer to represent them. Look at verse 36. "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Listen to the answer Jesus gives in verses 37 & 38: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." I pray that I might cherish my Lord and Savior above all else and that every beat of my heart would pound with passion for God.

Friday's material this week deals with leadership. At some point or other in our life, all of us will have needed to be a leader. Be it in our home and family, church, community, or job, there have been, or will be, times when you or I were looked to as the leader. To lead in humility and genuine obedience needs to be our goal.

God bless you as you study this week. I think you will find this study helpful and challenging. May God help us to apply these principles to our lives.

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 replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

A Party in Heaven - Matthew 22:1-14

Passage Preview

Does comparing the experience of heaven to a party strike you as odd? Jesus uses a common experience to get us to grasp the joy of what heaven will be like. Jesus also communicates the sobering truth that many are invited to the wedding, but few will respond.

Key Words

- Darkness: Here refers to a place of punishment, separated from the light of God.

Read Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

⁵ "But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business.

⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

¹³ "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

¹⁴ "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

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

(Matthew 22:2, 3a) The king who was the host shows his grace by inviting and re-inviting his guests to the banquet. He is (1) gracious; (2) generous; (3) patient, and (4) persistent in his invitation. The invitation is repeated to underscore the king's patience, to bring to light the latent hostility of his subjects, and to exhibit their persistent refusal as inexcusable. (*Pastor's Annual 1977* by T.T. Crabtree, pg. 358)

Verses 11 – 14 seem like an appendix to the parable, but they are vitally important. The wedding garment was provided by the host so that everybody was properly attired and the poor did not feel conspicuous. Salvation is personal and individual. We must accept what God gives to us – the righteousness of Christ – and not try to make it on our own. Since these parables had a definite *national* emphasis, this *personal* emphasis at the end was most important. The nation's leaders were guilty of spiritual blindness, hypocrisy, and deliberate disobedience to the Word. Instead of accepting this indictment from Jesus, and repenting, they decided to attack Him and argue with Him. The result: judgment. We should be careful not to follow their example of disobedience. (*Be Loyal* by Warren W. Wiersbe, pg. 156)

2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?

3. In essence a wedding is a celebration! When you think about celebrating the life of Christ, what comes to mind? Why?

4. Jesus is the King of the wedding banquet. What would be the proper attire to wear to this wedding in terms of our character?

5. **Kingdom Question:** How do you respond to the idea that many of your friends won't be at the banquet table in the kingdom of heaven?

Summary

To know that you have been invited to the wedding banquet, and have responded in faith and repentance to God's invitation, should give you great peace and assurance.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are so gracious, not wanting anyone to perish. Thank you that you drew us to yourself, in faith and repentance, and have given us peace and assurance. We pray that many who, at this point, don't intend to come, will change their minds. Thank you that your invitation is open to all. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday

Frame the Question/Set A Trap - Matthew 22:15-22

Passage Preview

The Pharisees and Herodians use flattery and entrapment to squeeze Jesus into a position of alienating Him from the people. Jesus discerns their hypocrisy and turns their deceptive questions into an opportunity for His followers to obey the law while ultimately submitting to God's kingdom authority.

Key Words

- Pharisees: (Separated ones) Most powerful Jewish religious group.
- Herodians: Political party who supported Herod, aligned with Pharisees.
- Integrity: Wholeness of character.

Read Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.

¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?" ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

1. What spiritual truth stood out to you? Why?
2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. Describe the essence of the trap Jesus' enemies set for him.

As I consider each one of these groups, I conclude that most likely I would have ended up in the party of Pharisees. I would have admired their pragmatic approach to the ruling government, balanced by their willingness to stand up for principle. Orderly people, the Pharisees produced good citizens. Radicals like Essenes and Zealots would have made me nervous; the Sadducees I would have scorned as opportunists. Thus as a sympathizer of the Pharisees, I would have stood on the edge of Jesus' audience, watching him deal with the burning issues of the day. Would Jesus have won me over? Much as I wish, I cannot easily answer that question. (*The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey, pg. 63)

Verse 22: Observe how they were nonplussed by this answer: they *marveled, and left him, and went their way [KJV]*. They admired his sagacity in discovering and evading a snare which they thought so craftily laid. One would think they should have marveled and followed him; no, they marveled and left him. There are many in whose eyes Christ is marvelous, and yet not so precious. They admire his wisdom, but will not be guided by it. *They went their way [KJV]*, as persons ashamed, and made an inglorious retreat. They quitted the field. There is nothing got by contending with Christ. (*The Matthew Henry Commentary*, pg. 1317)

4. How does Jesus turn their trap and use it as a teaching tool?

5. **Kingdom Question:** Jesus says to render to God what is His. What does that mean in your own life?

6. How does your enemy, Satan, attempt to entrap you? How do you counter his attacks?

Summary

Discerning the unseen reality of evil intent requires spiritual insight from God. Are you able to “sniff out” the evil intent of Satan as he attempts to entrap you with lies? Pray for that kind of discernment today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us recognize the Devil and his traps as he works to frame us as believers. Grant us discernment in recognizing the sects, cults and “isms” of our day. Make us genuine and people of integrity, free from hypocrisy. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Wednesday

Marriage at the Resurrection- Matthew 22:23-33

Passage Preview

The Sadducees take up where the Pharisees left off, trying to trap Jesus in his answers and alienate him from his followers. The bait this time is marriage in heaven. Jesus again speaks to the source of their evil intentions: their concept of God and the scriptures is faulty.

Key Words

- Sadducees: An aristocratic religious group.
- Error: Forsaking the right path.
- Power: Miraculous power, mighty works.
- Astonished: Captivated, carried away.

Romans 10:9, 10 *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”*

According to the Scriptures faith in the resurrection of Christ is essential to salvation.

A student at the University of Uruguay said to me, “Professor McDowell, why can’t you refute Christianity?” “For a very simple reason,” I answered. “I am not able to explain away an event in history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (*Evidence for the Resurrection* by Josh McDowell)

Job 19:25 *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth”*

II Corinthians 4:14 *“..because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.”*

John 14:19 *“Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”*

John 11:25 *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies..”*

Philippians 3:10 *“ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,”*

Read Matthew 22:23-33

²³ That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ²⁴ “Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. ²⁵ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. ²⁷ Finally, the woman died. ²⁸ Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?” ²⁹ Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰ At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. ³¹ But about the resurrection of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, ³² ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” ³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

1. What spiritual truth stood out to you? Why?
2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. What are the consequences of not knowing the scriptures and the power of God in our lives?
4. Since God is the God of the living, how has He revealed Himself to you lately?
5. **Kingdom Question:** The King’s true followers will spend eternity with Him. What affect should that have on this life?

Summary

What area of your life needs the incredible power of the Holy Spirit and the scriptures? Are you experiencing His power to live the Christian life?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to know you and the power of the resurrection. Teach us more of this power each day. In Jesus name, Amen.

Thursday

The Magna Carta of Christianity - Matthew 22:34-46

Passage Preview

Jesus now speaks to the core message of the kingdom. Love for God and people capture the essence of Jesus' primary teaching. To miss this dimension of the Christian faith is to shred the gospel of its core truth.

Jesus also confronts the Pharisees with a series of critical questions that should have helped them conclude that He was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. How tragic to have so much truth and miss the whole point.

Key Words

- Love: Cherish above all else.
- Heart: Hidden springs of the personal life. Seat of moral nature and spiritual life.
- Soul: Immaterial, invisible part of human nature.
- Mind: The seat of reflective consciousness.

Read Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." "

⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

There is no question as to what is most important. Love *is* the greatest! To love fellow believers is a basic injunction of the New Testament – repeated more than any other. And when Paul was thrilled with a church that was maturing and growing, he always thanked God for *their love*. When he analyzed a church, the “bottom line” was always “love.” And thus he wrote to the Colossians after enumerating numerous Christian virtues: “*And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity*” (Col. 3:14). Peter agreed! He wrote: “*Above all, love each other deeply*, because love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).

If we begin with Jesus Christ's basic marching orders to His disciples, we shouldn't be at all surprised at this New Testament emphasis. He said, “A new commandment I give you: *Love one another*. As I have loved you, so you must *love one another*. All men will know that you are My disciples if you *love one another*” (John 13:34-35). (*Building Up One Another* by Gene Getz, pg. 5)

To love our neighbor as ourselves is the second great commandment (v.39); It is like unto that first; it is inclusive of all the precepts of the second table, as that is of the first. It is like it, for it is founded upon it, and flows from it. It is implied, that we do, and should, love ourselves. There is a self-love which is corrupt, and it must be put off and mortified: but there is a self-love which is natural, and the rule of greatest duty, and it must be preserved and sacrificed. We must love ourselves, that is, we must have a due regard to the dignity of our own natures, and a due concern for the welfare of our own souls and bodies. It is prescribed, that we love our neighbor as ourselves. We must honor and esteem all men, and must wrong and injure none; and, as we have opportunity, must do good to all. We must love our neighbor as ourselves, as truly and sincerely as we love ourselves, and in the same instances; nay, in many cases we must deny ourselves for the good of our neighbor. (The Matthew Henry Commentary, pg 1318)

I Corinthians 13:13 *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

Romans 12:9, 10 *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”*

2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. What does it mean to love God in the way Jesus describes love?
4. What does it mean to love your neighbor in this way?
5. **Kingdom Question:** Cross reference verse 39 with John 13:34-35. Describe what following Christ's teaching in these verses would look like in your life.
6. How did the Pharisees miss who Jesus was, in spite of having so much knowledge?

Summary

Heart-level disciples pulsate with a passion for the Triune God. Are you in love with the God of the universe or has your faith become a system of beliefs with the stench of death?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you that you loved us first. Help to us to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and then may our love for others grow out of our love for you. In the name of Jesus, the source of our love, Amen.

Friday

“Passing the Fish Along”

Read Chapter 23 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

Exceptions. We've likely all made them. They are often healthy. They're the little things that we often let go or overlook based on certain criteria or situations. When a leader sees himself as the exception, it is dangerous, and at that point he has ceased being a safe kingdom follower.

Kingdom leaders can protect those under them in the organization by first and foremost submitting to the Leader of the universe. The safest human leaders are those who embrace God's higher power in voluntary humility and deep respect. Genuine followers of the Servant-King make safe leaders. Non-followers discourage and disillusion those entrusted to them. In fact, many believers have given up on following Christ because of human leaders who, while claiming to represent Him, violated their trust. The second step in protecting those you lead is to give a group of trusted others the truth about yourself. A leader under authority reveals himself. He deliberately collapses the appearance layer into the reality layer and exposes his true self. (*Follow Me* by Jan David Hettinga, pg. 206)

Insisting on taking kingdom principles to their pragmatic conclusions produces a safe human leader. Wise kingdom leaders truly believe that they have strongholds and blind spots like every other believer. They also believe that theirs are even more dangerous than they would be in anyone else. They allow the Spirit of Truth to so control them that they cease to be a threat to those they love and lead. They blaze a trail for others to follow to the *repentance-saturated, humility-rich environment* of the kingdom in the power of their risen Lord. Humility is safe. Egoism is dangerous. *No exceptions!* (*Follow Me* by Jan David Hettinga, pg. 210)

1. Describe some of the issues that are important to the in-control leader.
2. What are some of the key issues from which you and I must protect those following us?
3. The author says surrendered kingdom leaders must protect their followers from things such as...
 - *Arrogance *Pride *Need to win
 - *Need to control *Need to be rightWhich characteristic are you most vulnerable to?
4. Outline the two-step process given for protecting those you lead and explain where you're at in the process.

Matthew 20:26 *“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...”*

I Peter 5:2 *“Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve...”*

5. When is the last time you disclosed who you really are to someone? List the names of individuals you have purposefully and intentionally revealed yourself to.

6. Outline the progression that takes place in the demise of a "kingdom of self" leader.

Summary

Whether it is leadership at church, on my job, or in my family, at some point I must step into the role of a leader. Have I built relationships that will hold me accountable? Have I done all I can to "ego-proof" myself? Am I safe? If not, my church, family, and those I work with had better watch out.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, please purify my heart. May my leadership be genuine, humble, and obedient. Make me a "safe" leader. Help me not to be a hypocritical, "kingdom-of-self" leader. Take control of my life and make me a servant leader, useful to You. In Jesus Name and for His sake, Amen.

Kingdom Principles

Write out Kingdom Principle #1:

Write out Kingdom Principle #2:

Write out Kingdom Principle #3:

Write out Kingdom Principle #4:

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:
John Kehler

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:

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

Memory Verse:

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40