

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Battleground's CCLI: 11403295 CLSL: CSPL142794

**The Sermon on the Mount: A King And His Followers
Matthew 4:23**

Main idea: Our daily lives are meant to be lived in relationship with our King and submission to His rule and reign.

Introduction

- Who is Matthew? Why was it written?
- The four faces of the gospels - **Revelation 4:5-7**



Three Life-Changing Realities For Jesus' Kingdom Followers

1. Matthew wants us to know Jesus' Kingly identity - **Matthew 1-3; Matthew 1:1; 4:3; 9:6**
2. Matthew wants us to know about Jesus' kingdom - **Matthew 4:23**

“These are the two loves: the first is holy, the second foul; the first is social, the second selfish; the first consults the common welfare for the sake of a celestial society, the second grasps at a selfish control of social affairs for the sake of arrogant domination; the first is submissive to God, the second tries to rival God; the first is quiet, the second restless; the first is peaceful, the second trouble-making; the first prefers truth to the praises of those who are in error, the second is greedy for praise, however it may be obtained; the first is friendly, the second envious; the first desires for its neighbor what it wishes for itself, the second desires to subjugate its neighbor; the first rules its neighbor for the good of its neighbor, the second for its own advantage...”

- Augustine

- Matthew wants us to know Jesus' Kingdom character
 - Jesus taught with authority - **Matthew 7:28-29**
 - Jesus acted in authority and compassion - **Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34**

3. Matthew wants us to know how to live as Jesus' followers - **Matthew 5:1-2**

- He wants us to know they're only two responses to Jesus
- He wants us to know our hearts - **Matthew 5:17-22**
- He wants us to know how to experience Shalom/blessedness

So What?

- Will we abandon all and follow Jesus?
 - **Matthew 4:20-22; 8:21-22?**
- How then shall we live?

Now What? (Small Group Discussion)

Leader's Notes ***

- Read **Matthew, chapters 1-7**. Then read **Exodus 19:1-6, 20; 20:1-21**
 - Discuss both the similarities and differences between these two passages.
 - **Moses is their prophet, leader, and teacher.**
 - **Moses went up a mountain to receive God's instructions for how people live and thrive as His people.**
 - **Moses was a mediator between God and the people. Jesus our mediator, but He was also God with us.**

- Jesus goes up the mountain and instructs his followers on living and flourishing as his kingdom's people. (Mountain is a recurring theme in Matthew - Ex: Transfiguration)
 - Jesus is the better and final Moses, coming to bring salvation and a means to experience a life that grows and flourishes even in times of persecution.
- What does Matthew teach us about Jesus' identity? How does this impact how we approach this sermon in **chapters 5-7**?
 - Baptism - Jesus both relates to humanity and is commended by His Father
 - Jesus goes into the Wilderness and is tempted but remains devoted to following His Father's will; no shortcuts!
 - Jesus models obedience as beginning with a posture of the heart and then the pursuit of our lives. This posture and pursuit is the blessed/flourishing life.
 - John calls the blessed life an abundant life that comes from knowing God and following his will, as revealed by the Logos. (Word =Jesus)
- What does Jesus desire for us to learn from His teaching? How does Jesus' teaching differ from that of the religious leaders of His day?
- What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?
 - Matthew 4:18-22 - Keywords and phrases: "fishers of men", "immediately", "Followed."
 - Matthew 8:18-22 - Keywords or phrases: "Son of Man," "nowhere," "follow," "leave"