

Weekly Connector: Who's leading you?

January 5, 2018

Hello Church!

Last Sunday, I offered a challenge to memorize three chapters of Matthew - what we call "The Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7). Some of you looked at those chapters and discovered the challenges that come with them: there are so many verses!

To help, remember that something so big cannot be handled all at once, but in smaller increments. So, each week, take just a few verses and seek to memorize them as you read them, study them, and hoard them in your mind and heart. For this first week, we can focus on the beginning, Matthew 5:1-3:

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Imagine, if you can, the privilege given to each of these disciples. Being with Jesus, they too saw the crowds. Even though the crowds were there to see Him - to capture His attention, Jesus pulled away in order to spend time with those closest to Him. A disciple is defined as "a learner" or "a pupil". These disciples, eager to learn from Jesus, saw Him sit down and they went to listen as "He opened His mouth and taught them."

It's easy for me to look back after 2000 years and value the moment recorded in this passage - to recognize the incredible privilege in all of history that these men (and women, likely) were afforded. They could hear the actual voice of God and learn from Him. But, would I do the same? Would I have had the maturity and presence of mind to recognize the treasure of this moment?

One way to answer this question is to get our Bibles out and commit the Words of God to memory. Speak the words of Jesus - over and over again, until His words flow from our hearts. For if we commit His words to memory, then might we say with reasonable assurance, that there is at least a small chance we would have sat down with Jesus and listened to the most important sermon ever delivered?



This Sunday, we start a new Leadership Sermon Series called, "Led by a Shepherd?" Each of us are led by someone (or more than someone). Who is your shepherd? Who are you trusting to lead you through this life and into eternity? Be sure to bring a friend on Sunday morning, starting with Sunday School at 9AM, followed by Worship at 10AM, to celebrate Jesus and learn what it means when He describes Himself as the "Good Shepherd."

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg