

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

OCTOBER 11, 2020

Embracing Adventurous Faith - Part 2 - Connor Neigenfind

WARM-UP

1. Pastor Connor opened with a quote that is meaningful for us today – “The leader is never the exception” – what does this mean to you? Connor went on to say that we want to follow people who not only tell us what is right but do what is right. Have you had experiences in your life where leaders that you were following did this well? How about the opposite – leaders that only ‘talked a good game’, but didn’t ‘walk the talk’?

DIGGING DEEPER

Today, Pastor Connor continues the sermon series about embracing adventurous faith. He teaches us that when we choose to follow Christ, we get a leader that not only tells us (teaches us) what is right, but does what is right (shows us).

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN, ‘TO FOLLOW’? – READ: Matthew 4:19-20; 8:18-22; 9:9; 10:38-39; 16:24-26; 19:16-22

2. As you read these passages, what similarities do you see? Why are these similarities important? What differences do you see? Why are they important? From these passages, how would you summarize Jesus’ notion of what it means to follow Him?
3. Pastor Connor contrasted the difference between a student and an apprentice relative to the teacher. Do you recall what he said? Which of these two more closely aligns with the notion of being a disciple? Why?

GOD DOESN’T CALL US TO DO THINGS HE ISN’T WILLING TO DO – READ: Philippians 2:5-11

4. Jesus not only calls us to follow Him, but He shows us how to follow. This Philippians passage from Paul’s letter, in a beautiful chiasmic structure, is considered by scholars to be an early, early creedal hymn of the body of believers in Jerusalem – possibly created and initially used within the same year that Jesus was crucified, raised and ascended. What does it say that Jesus did? And in verse 5, what does Paul urge the followers in the Philippian church to do? How does this relate to being a follower?
5. For a more complete picture, read verses 2:1-4. Did Jesus do all these things in His earthly ministry? And again, what is Paul telling the Philippians to do? What does this mean for us today as followers?

ARE YOU ACTUALLY FOLLOWING JESUS? – READ: Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:6-8

6. Connor shared that, unfortunately, some people self-identify as Christians, but that's where it stops. In these two passages at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, does He tell the believers what it really means to be a follower? How so? What are the particulars? What does this mean for us today? And how do we prepare for this mission of 'doing what the Master said and did'?
7. Read Luke 9:57-62. What do you make of this passage? What was the man saying? What was Jesus saying? Connor asked us, "When you and Jesus disagree, who wins the argument?" What is your response to his question? Connor said that, for the follower of Christ, He wins every time. What does this mean? Is this challenging for you? How? What might be some other words or phrases that we would use to convey this notion of 'who wins the argument'? Does this make sense to you? Do you see how it relates to being a true follower?

PRAYER

As a follower of Jesus, pray that the Holy Spirit would show and instruct you in the ways that you not only know what to do, but actually do it, for His sake. Pray that this would be revealed in such a way to apply to both you individually and EAC as a faith community. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His call to you as a disciple, particularly with those whom He places in your paths where you live, work and play.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw