



Father's Day

Today, we'll look back at some of the things we've learned so far in the book of Mark and reconsider how we can apply what we've learned. It may be helpful to reread these passages before discussing.

In Mark 3:7-21, we see the difference between being part of the crowd and being a disciple of Jesus. Being part of the crowd, just merely peeking in to Jesus' ministry, but not actually engaging in it, is not Jesus' will for any of us. Jesus' intention is for every Christ follower to be fully engaged in communing with Him and ministering with Him. He wants every Christ follower to be a disciple.

We've had several opportunities as a church over the last few weeks to be involved in ministry to those in our communities and the Greater Dayton Area. Have you participated in any way at all? Have you been intentional about serving? Praying? Giving? What is one thing that we as a group can do to help these relief efforts and join in on Jesus' ministry to the hurting? (Maybe put something on the calendar!)

In Mark 3:20-25, we learned that if we are truly living in the Kingdom of God, then we will face opposition from all sides, possibly even family. We learned that what Jesus was teaching us is that loyalty to the Kingdom of God is deeper than even our blood relationships.

In what ways have you been tested in this area since we've studied it? Have you given much thought to how you may be more committed to worldly pursuits than the Kingdom? If not, think about it again. How can you align your allegiance more with the Kingdom than the world? How can our group show that we are committed to the Kingdom of God together?

Mark 3:31-35 taught us that the Kingdom of God redefines the way we interact and relate to one another. That if we are in the Kingdom of God, then we are part of God's family, and we are all family with one another.

When we studied this, how did this change your view of FBCnl, if at all? How did it affect the way you view our Sunday morning gatherings? Our group? Our serving together in mission and evangelism? If you were to take a moment and imagine FBCnl as a family, is there anybody in our church that you know of that needs to be cared for in any specific way that you wouldn't hesitate to help if they were a family member? What about within this group?

In the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4:1-20, we discussed the difference between merely hearing something and actually listening to something. It's easy to let what we hear on Sunday morning go in one ear and out the other. Perhaps that's what's happening right now in group! But if we are going to effectively receive what God's Word has for us, we need to prayerfully lean in and listen intentionally when we hear the Word preached or taught, expecting God to speak to us.

mark

C O M E F O L L O W M E

Have you made a habit of truly trying to “listen” to God whenever you go to church, attend group, or read the Bible? What practices or habits have you adopted to help you? How can we encourage or help one another to listen better to the teaching of God’s Word?

Mark 4:21-25 taught us that we are responsible to share the truth that we receive from God. God has shown the light of the Gospel into our hearts and it makes no sense to keep this light that we have hidden. We have to let it shine by sharing it with others.

Have you made any progress at all in being more open in sharing your faith? Why or why not? What has God done for you in your life? If you just answered that question in the group, who can you share that with outside the group?

Spend the last few minutes of class praying for one another to each of these ends:

- That we would be true disciples of Jesus, and not merely part of the crowd.
- That we would be loyal to the Kingdom of God despite any opposition we face.
- That we would treat one another as family, not merely as acquaintances.
- That we would do the hard work of truly taking to heart what the word of God teaches us about ourselves, about God, about others; and that we would put what we learn into practice.
- That we would be faithful to share the truth that we have received from the Lord.