KINGDOM *of* HEAVEN

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Matthew 8:18-22

(Sermon from Sunday 6 August 2023, Richard van Lieshout)

Sermon Outline

- The outline was pretty simple this week:

A. **Introduction**: Review the first 'Discipleship' story in Matt 4:18-22 (Simon & Andrew, James & John)
   - Highlighting their immediate and unquestioning response, setting up a contrast with the story from 8:18-22.

1. **Would-be Disciple no 1 (v19-20)**
   - Challenge regarding willingness to forgo a life of comfort

2. **Would-be Disciple no 2 (v21-22)**
   - Challenge regarding priorities

C. **Conclusion:** Developing our Christology
   - 'Teacher'
   - 'Lord'
   - 'Son of Man'

1. Information

a) Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions

b) Fill in any info that didn't make it into the sermon.

- There is not much more information in the CG guide, that was not covered in the sermon.
- However, for the conclusion of the sermon, it would be helpful to review the three additional titles under the 'Christology' section in the **first CG manual**, page 10.

2. **Activation**

- Below are some activation questions based on the sermon outline.

    A. **Introduction**: Contrasting the discipleship stories of the first four disciples, with these two would-be disciples

i. Compare the responses of Peter, Andrew, James, John (4:18-22) with the two would-be disciples (8:18-22). **Why do you think the original disciples responded the way they did?**

1. **Would-be disciple no 1**

ii. The Scribe's view of Jesus was a 'teacher'. **How do you think that contributed negatively to his unwillingness to follow Jesus? How does ours, or the world's conception of Jesus as merely a teacher negatively impact our discipleship?**

iii. Jesus challenges the Scribe by remarking that even he, the Messiah, lived a life without any creature comforts. Evidently, the would-be disciple did not find that idea appealing. **Discuss how attachment to creature comforts distracts us from fully following Jesus today.**

- We're not there yet, but you could dip into Matt 13:22 for emphasis!

2. **Would-be disciple no 2**

iv. Jesus clearly challenges the priorities of this would-be disciples, essentially saying that the demands of the kingdom supersede any other responsibility, even one's commitment to one's family. **Discuss how attachment to family relationships may hinder our discipleship to Jesus today**.

- You may want to add the account from Matt 15:1-9 here to ensure that people don't get the wrong idea that Jesus calls us to abandon all family responsibility! I tried to make this point clear in the sermon, but you may need to ensure your group understands this.

- **Is it important that Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law without anyone asking?**

B. **Conclusion:** Developing our Christology.

- In the sermon I mentioned that the most important question a person could consider is 'Who is Jesus?'. Thus far in Matthew we have slowly been building our Christology (ie Jesus's 'resume'). In this passage we added three more titles to our Christology, that of 'Teacher', 'Lord' & 'Son of Man'. **Review the list below, and at each point consider how this particular title motivates us to follow Jesus comprehensively, being willing to put aside creature comforts, or family if necessary, to follow him.**
    - Christ / Messiah (1:1)
    - Son of David / King (1:1, 2:2)
    - Saviour (1:21)
    - Immanuel (1:23)
    - Final judge (3:11-12)
    - Son of God (3:17, 4:3, 5)
    - Teacher (7:28-29)
    - Lord (8:2, 6, 8)
    - Son of Man (8:20)

3. Implementation

- In the following week, keep an account of when creature comforts, or family priorities, have negatively impacted your discipleship. Share with the group next week!