

Learning From Jesus

Series – Talking & Walking

- Holiness matters to God
 - *“Be Holy for I Am Holy”*
- Accepting God’s provision, New Life, Washed Clean....
 - need to live up to who I am in Jesus
 - can – adopt list of rules and regulations.... Or give up and just get through life!
 - suggest – third option, learn from Jesus. Become those disciples (apprentices), learn about life in the kingdom – what God provides for us to have life!

Learning From Jesus

1. Structure of Matthew

- 4:23 *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people”*

- 9:35 *“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”*

a) Chapters 5-7 Jesus Teaching the Disciples & Crowds

b) Chapters 8-9 Accounts of Healings & Miracles

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c) Purpose in the design

- see the impact of Jesus Life
- encounter the importance of Jesus teaching

2. Drawn to Jesus

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. “ Matthew 4:23-25

Learning From Jesus

a) In Awe of Jesus works and wonders

- easy to have a fascination with miracles of Jesus
- love the healing, casting out, authority over nature
- come to hear the secret, gain the inside track

b) Astonished at the Authority and Clarity

- 7:28 *"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."*

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- c) forced to try and merge teacher & message
 - radical words from a powerful person
 - hearing about the kingdom of God – astonishing
 - not about status, rules, earning or deserving
 - blessed are..... This is for them!
 - my heart matters as much as my actions?
 - forgiveness, love, mercy, grace, comfort – really?

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3. Responses To Jesus

a) Trying to Divorce the Man and Message

- admire the ethical teacher, great insight and wisdom, avoid the spooky supernatural stuff!

- fascination with the miracles and power, but this intrusion into my personal lifestyle, day to day living, can't be taken too literally!

b) Accepting What He says to be true, Evidenced by the Authority and Power Exhibited in His Work.

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- means we hear, ponder, wrestle with truth
- accept as true, powerful, authoritative, the heart of God
- settle the issue of acceptance – turn to embracing, living in light of the truth
- stop evaluating what is said according to cultural values, personal experience or opinion of supposed experts
- begin evaluating what is heard, seen, by Jesus standards.
- fully believing the way to life, joy, relationship with God, living beyond circumstance – kingdom living, Holiness

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4. Approaching the Beatitudes

a) The Great Announcement

- fortunate are you who have the kingdom power at work within you, these blessings are for you.....

- for my followers.... Promises and assurances

- note – not an absence of persecution, problems, mourning – here on earth. But what you need during

- not a new set of rules to follow, but a way of life to embrace. Adopt the kingdom values, embrace the way that brings life – life abundantly

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b) The Great Invitation

- you can become this kind of person, live this way
- to have your eyes opened, drawn to the Savior, to have the reign of God in your life, His doing in you
- to those who come to worship out of curiosity, tradition or skepticism – these can be truths of transformation! These blessing, values, promises are for you if you live in the kingdom of God
- how you respond is up to you

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So What

1. Cannot Deny Who Jesus Is!

- What He said, What He did, account stands
- either a great story or life changing truth – your decision

2. Have His Word

- recorded, guarded, inspired, useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, sharp as a sword, powerful, authoritative, God revealed to us!
- you can either accept or reject it's authority in your life.
- to follow Jesus means accepting & living in light of

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3. Embracing Life As A Follower of Jesus

- accepting His truth – adjusting my perspective and choices
- believing the promises of – blessing, joy in difficulty, comfort in mourning, peace in crisis, gentleness, love, forgiveness, heart wholeness – are experienced and lived out in the Kingdom life.
- practical pursuit of Holiness – living like God intended, by his provision and power, modeling what I experience in living in the Kingdom of God.