**Matthew Sermon VIII**

**Have Great Faith That The Harvest is Plentiful**

Mention Wed. event with Jamal Wright in which he shared both a very brief history of racial injustice in this country, followed by his own experiences, followed by great dialog.

Matt 7:1-5 Seek first the kingdom. Have incredible kingdom standards ever before you, but do not judge—**pass judgment** on those who are still working on it.

Matthew 7:6 Do not judge, but do make wise judgments. (also v. 15-20 you can tell a tree by its fruit)

Matthew 7:12 The Golden Rule. So… This serves as the summary of Jesus statements about Kingdom ethics beginning all the way back in 5:21-48.

Matthew 7:13-27 How to get into the kingdom.

7:13-14 Small is the gate, narrow the road, and only a few find it. This seems pretty judgmental. It seems narrow-minded. Q: How do you feel about this?

v. 13 wide is the gate and broad (easy) is the road to hell.

Matt 7:15-20 Who is the false prophet? Those who teach the road to eternal life is easy and the gate broad.

How can we know?

1. by their fruit. v. 16-20

2. whether they are doing God’s will. v. 21-23 many will be shocked.

Why will so few make it to heaven? v. 21 Because only a very few are willing to do the will of God.

Not all who say, “Lord, Lord!”

Matthew 7:24-27 Final thoughts. Build on the rock = Put God’s word into practice.

Matt 8:1-9:34 Jesus’ ministry of teaching, preaching and healing.

Matt 8:1-4 Jesus heals a leper/unclean.

Matt 8:5-13 Then he heals the servant of a Gentile.

Matt 8:14-15 Then he heals a woman.

Matt 8:5-13 A Centurion’s faith. parallel Luke 7:1-8

A centurion is a Roman officer of about 100.

v. 8 “only say the word.”

Jesus honors great faith. A personal visit is not necessary. You do not need some sort of sign like Gideon. We do not need a sign from God to believe he will do what he says he will do.

v. 10 Do you want to impress Jesus? Have great fatih!

Q: What have you done lately that required a lot of faith?

Committed to be on a mission team, to take the one year challenge, to share your faith with someone intimidating, to believe that your relative or friend will become a Christian?

v. 12 Many Jews will be excluded from the kingdom. Why? They lack faith. Faith not nationality matters…. Many who think they are Christians…

v. 12 sons of the kingdom = Jews. Where will they be? In outer darkness!

v. 13 Jesus says to you: “Let it be done just as you believed it would.” This applies to us.

Remember this from the lesson: **“Let it be done just as you have believed.”**

A mantra this week. A breath prayer.

For me: Jesus is the Prince of Peace, I will rely on him.

Some of us have not seen God doing great things in our lives for a while. Maybe it is because you do not believe he will do great things.

Illustration: Share story about the woman in the airport in San Diego going through SLC to Kansas City.

When we came to Bakersfield….

Illustration: 2 Kings 6:15-20 King of Aram wants to capture or kill Elishah because he knows what the king is doing. Sends his whole army just to get one guy.

Elisha is in Dothan.

v. 15 The servant, “What shall we do?”

Maybe you are saying “What shall we do?” Hopeless. How can we share our faith? How can I help my husband to be more spiritual? How can our son or daughter believe?

v. 16 Those who are with us are greater than those who are with them.

Servant: (sarcastically) “Whatever you say, Elijah.”

Q: Do you believe this?

v. 17 Open his eyes Lord, so that he may see.

Some of us need, in the time of Covid-19, unparalleled turmoil over racial injustice, a time when it is impossible to share on campus, when your Bible talk has no visitors or studies. “Open our eyes so we can see.” Those who are with us outnumber those who are with them.”

Do you believe that? Are you sure? I can relate. I have been feeling a bit of that.

But guess what: We have three close to being baptized right now.

Matt 8:1-9:34 Jesus mission of teaching, preaching and healing.

Matt 9:35 – 10:42 Parallel mission of the disciples.



Matt 4:23 Jesus went through Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people teaching, preaching and healing = Matthew 9:35 For us Matthew 10:7-8.

Jesus ministry became their ministry and it is our ministry. Our message: Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand (Matthew 4:17)

9:38 Are you a worker? A ministry of compassion. People are lost, without direction.

Are you frustrated with people or compassionate toward then?

This is an evangelism passage, the our method is showing compassion to people.

Matthew 10:-1-4 The twelve are very diverse tax-collector (right wing) a zealot

(left wing). We need all kinds too.

Matthew 10:5-42 Our marching orders.

10:9-10 first things first. Always better to rely on God, not self. Paul to Timothy: 2 Tim 2:4 Do not get entangled in civilian affairs.

V 11-15 OK to focus on the open. We are not judging but we are using wise judgment. Who is really open?

16-20 Be wise, but maintain pure motives. preach boldly. Not likely you will be arrested, but… God will be with you.

21-23, It might get rough!

vs 22 Answer: we will be hated (but we will not hate, we will love!)

v 23 If you get fired, get a job somewhere else.

[Aside: v.23 is a bit problematic for some. Is he talking about his resurrection? Pentecost? AD70? We do not know. Dan 7:13-14 (Pentecost)]

Ex: called before a college president.

Also called before my dean for web site content.

Accused by students of being too Christian.

Cops called on at CSUB.

v. 25 They called Jesus Satan… Will you do a better job?

v. 26 do not fear them. The truth will come out. What is the worst they could do to you? Get you fired? Wouldn’t that be cool? Have to find a new place to live?

v. 28 kidnapped or killed?

Q: Who would you rather have acknowledging you: God or your boss, landlord, professor or neighbor.

v. 32-33. Our job: Acknowledge God! BTW not acknowledging = denying!

If you acknowledge God, your boss may deny you. The reverse?

v. 34-39. Yes, even family!!!!

Is v. 34-36 a contradiction of Jesus being the prince of peace? (we read Isaiah 9:5-7 earlier)

Peace that passes understanding does not equal lack of conflict.

= restored relationship.

v. 34 conflict is a result, not a goal.

v. 37 clear loyalties

v. 37 correctly interprets Luke 14:26 hyperbole “Hate” = Love less.

Wives have been divorced, children have been disowned.

Illustration: Rhys Kiaaina Hawaiian “pagan” Wife Japanese. Buddhist.

Wife threatened, bribed with money, car. She became a Christian. Married 1991 – 2018 Rhys not allowed to enter home. Didn’t come to wedding, birth of kids will not even let him in the house or speak to him. Finally 2018 let him into their house.

Q: Where does your loyalty lie? God will send open people our way!!

10:40-42 Encouragement (we need it) You will not lose your reward.

Our “mantra” for the week?

Let it be done, just as you have believed.

Let us remember that Those who are with us are more than those who are with them, and let us open our eyes so that we may see what God can and will do.

Jesus has given us a ministry of teaching, preaching and healing, but it is always a ministry of compassion to harassed and helpless people.

They may not appreciate what we say. It might even get rough. Even friends and family may turn against you. But we look for those open to the message of Jesus.

But Jesus tells us if we acknowledge him before people, God will acknowledge us before God. We will certainly not lose our reward.

Matt 11:1-19 JTB

Matt 12:38-50 Jonah, mothers and brothers