



Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Come”

Complement to sermon on 12/23/2018 – “Wrestling”(Faith)

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Share your favorite Christmas song. Tell why it’s your favorite and then sing it together.
2. When you dream of a white Christmas, what do you see? (examples: a foot of fresh powder for skiing, just enough snow to cover the ground and paint the trees, a crazy blizzard, a warm tropical beach with white sand)

MEMORIZE – Matthew 21: 42-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’ Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

READ – Read Matthew 2: 13-23

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. The escape to and return from Egypt of Jesus echoes several Old Testament narratives. See Joseph (Genesis 37), Moses, The Exodus, The Passover (Exodus 1-14). What is the significance of Matthew seeing Jesus as the full culmination of these narratives? In other words, what does it mean that Jesus is the True Joseph, the True Moses, the True Exodus and the True Passover?
4. Matthew reports that Jesus grew up in Nazareth (v23) and that this too, was to fulfill prophecy. However, there is no direct prophecy like this in our bibles. So what is this referring to?
 - a. Some believe Nazarene is a reference to the Hebrew word for branch in Isaiah 11:1
 - b. Could simply be verbal prophecies that weren’t recorded
 - c. Nazareth was a place of lowly reputation. Nazarene then is being used by Matthew as a synonym for someone who is despised or detestable. If so, the prophecies Matthew has in mind would include Psalm 22: 6-8, Isaiah 49:7 and 53:3.
 - d. Take time to discuss the three options and look up the references.
5. In v 15, Matthew says that Jesus fulfills the prophecy, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
 - a. What is the original context of this prophecy?
 - b. How would a Jew interpret this text? Who would they think son refers to?
 - c. What does it mean that Jesus is the son? If Jesus is the true Son, who does that mean isn’t? What is significant about this?

Experiential: Troublesome Times

Matthew records a very troubling account of infant massacre. In truth, we as humans typically want to avoid or ignore these troubling accounts. But Advent is a time to lean into them and to bring them before our King. Although a troubling account, don't miss the fact that King Herod's effort to stop the will of God is unsuccessful. As an act of leaning into the difficult, take time to list things in this world and in your own life that are troubling and disturbing. Then spend time praying, lifting these things before God perhaps in sorrow or in anger or even in shock. In the midst of praying, thank God for the hope we have that no matter what people do, His plan and his will cannot be thwarted. Ask God for strength, wisdom and guidance on what He's calling you to do in these situations.

Testimony Time

How did you rely on Jesus this past week?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F756Mjxxrvc>

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – Mennonite Hymnal #115

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Lord Jesus, in this world we will have troubles, and when they come, give us the strength and courage to trust your word that says, "take heart" since you have overcome the world. Holy Spirit, use our troubles to lead us closer to you and to grow our faith. Amen