

February 4th, 2024

Clarity from the King

Matthew 8:18-22

1) Who is the most faithful disciple of Jesus that you know personally? Why do you say that about them? What about their life and character leads you to this conclusion? See if you can identify common traits and characteristics of the different people identified by the individuals in your group?

2) In this week's message, Clarity from the King, we suggested the Jesus is giving us clarity about what it means to be a true disciple of his. As reflect on your journey as a Christian, what are you encouraged by and what you're convicted about? Or, in other words, what clarity did Sunday bring for you personally, in relation to both how you are following Jesus faithfully and how you are struggling to do so?

3) We want to apply that same line of thinking to the specific points drawn out of the text this week, and offer some personal reflections and corporate observations.

Personally:

- In what ways are you decisively estranging yourself from the world, and in what ways would you say you are convicted regarding your enmeshment with the world?

- In what ways have you urgently reordered your life in this world, and in what ways are you to assimilated in your order of life to this world?

Corporately:

- In what ways do you think we as church are decisively estranging ourselves from the world, and in what ways do you think we are too enmeshed with the world?

- In what ways do you see us urgently reordering our church located in this world, and in what ways are do you think we are too assimilated in our church life to this world?

4) James recounted the story of Jim Elliot and his missionary colleagues who were martyred for their faith in Ecuador. One of his journal entries for which he is famously is that **“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”** What concrete things do you find yourself clinging to and treasuring or cherishing which you cannot keep? And what might you gain if you made a decision to give some of that or any of that up?