



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 17:24-18:9” on March 11/14, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 17:14-23 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 16:21-28

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)? What are distinguishing characteristics of a follower of Jesus? Today’s passage presents Jesus’ teaching on those characteristics; teaching which leads us to examine our own walk as a follower of Jesus. Do I have the distinguishing characteristics that distinguish me as a follower of Him?

Matthew 17:24-27 Jesus surrendered His right as the Son of God to NOT pay the temple tax in order to avoid undue offense to the Jewish temple leaders who did not yet recognize Him as the Messiah.

- Distinguishing characteristic of a follower of Jesus: OBEDIENCE when you don’t have to be.
- Can you describe a situation in which you chose to surrender your ‘rights’ for the common good of others or in order to not stand in the way someone else’s finding Jesus?
- What ‘rights’ are you clinging to in your life that might be a hindrance to others’ spiritual openness to following Jesus?
- Jesus gave us an example of being obedient to death as He approached the cross. In what ways could you strive to be a better example of obedience as a follower of Jesus?

Matthew 18:1-6 Jesus teaches about GREATNESS in this passage, reshaping the disciples’ view of what greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven would look like and using the trust of a child as an example. He pointed them to being concerned about what they needed to do to ENTER heaven, rather than worrying about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom.

Distinguishing characteristic of a follower of Jesus: HUMILITY when you don’t want to be humble.

- True humility requires us to surrender and entrust ALL we have and are to become more like Jesus; what things are you holding on to in your life that keep you from exercising child-like humility by surrendering ALL to Him?
- Ambition and jealousy seemed to be driving the disciples’ view of greatness; how is the world’s view of success in your daily life challenging you to maintain Jesus’ view of greatness – being humble when you don’t want/have to be?
- In what ways could you strive to be a better example of humility as a follower of Jesus?

Matthew 18:7-9 Jesus taught that causing others to sin, whether by sins of omission or of commission, requires drastic action on our part!

- Distinguishing characteristic of a follower of Jesus: INTENTIONALITY about my life even when it’s ‘not about me.’
- Wrestle with this: Am I really aware how my life – my decisions, my actions, or my words affect or influence others?
- Do you see yourself as a stumbling block or a steppingstone in your day-to-day life for others to find Jesus? Does the way you live your life keep people from getting to know Him, or make it easy for them to find Him?
- What unrepentant sins in your life might require intentional drastic action to remove them so others can recognize you as a follower of Jesus?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.