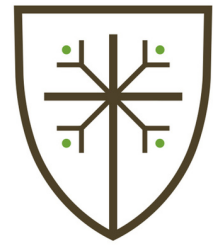


Epiphany on the Mount

Sermon Series for the Season of Epiphany



SERMON NOTES



January 29, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Kingdom & Conflict

PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

TEXTS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 5:1-12, 43-48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to be a peacemaker? What does it *not* look like. Consider what Brent said about being a "fight" person or a "flight" person.
2. How is conflict an obstacle to living as salt and light? How and when is it Not an obstacle?

SERMON SUMMARY

This week, Brent continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount looking at the Kingdom we are called to and the conflict that too often characterizes the kingdom of the world.

Over the past few weeks we've seen that the kingdom of God does not look like the kingdom of this world - everything that Jesus says on the sermon on the mount seems almost upside down from the way we think it should be. But here in the beatitudes, we get specifics - specifics of the life in this "upside down" kingdom.

Every individual has both an ethos and a telos to their lives- a rule of life and an end goal or driving force behind that rule. In the sermon on the mount we see that the ethos of God's kingdom is very different from that of the world, and that is because its telos is different. The end driving most of the decisions in the world is generally either power or comfort. If behaving this way or doing A, B, and C get me more power or comfort then I'll keep doing them. But in the kingdom of God, as we see in the Beatitudes, it is exactly the opposite. It is the poor, the meek, the merciful- those reviled and persecuted who embody the ethos of God's kingdom.

In this "upside down kingdom" our relationships are turned upside down as well. Those with whom we're in conflict, we are called to love; love instead of hate; blessing instead of curses. We are called as Christians, as people of the "upside down" kingdom to be peacemakers, to be to our enemies who the Father was to us when we were still His enemies. He made peace by blessing those who persecuted his Son.