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A Note From your Pastors

Dear Legacy Church family,

It is with much joy and excitement we present to you a sermon series and study guide called: "Things Jesus Never Said."

As pastors, we are often surprised at some of the quotes we hear that people will attribute to Jesus. Most often these quotes are found in Scripture and are useful to hear and know. Sometimes however, we will hear a quote or interpretation of what people *think* Jesus said, but with further research to the scriptures and the character of Jesus, they just aren't accurate.

In 2 Timothy 2:15, we find Paul's admonition to Timothy to "correctly handle," or "correctly explain" the Word of Truth. Then in Romans 10:17, Paul tells us that our faith comes through hearing the Word of Christ.

Jesus himself tells us in Matthew 7:24, that "Whoever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock."

We love God's Word and we definitely love the Words spoken by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We want to know the true words that He spoke! And we want to know the character of the speaker so well that we can identify what statements are Jesus' and which ones are not.

Join with us as we grow with you in our knowledge of God's Word, and as we seek to "correctly explain the Word of Truth." Then put His Words into practice, as we look at: "Things Jesus Never Said."

Growing along with you,

Your Legacy Pastors

The vision of Legacy Church is to be a Dó-Church, energizing and equipping people to love God with all their Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

How to use this book.

This book is designed to be a companion to the “Things Jesus Never Said” sermon series. Using a study-guide format, it will serve to develop and supplement each sermon. The goal for providing this resource is for individuals and small groups within our Legacy Church Family to further study and apply these teachings.

Our prayer is that God’s Word will powerfully radiate from the pulpit into our homes. With that in mind, you will find space for your own sermon notes and information to stimulate individual contemplation and small group discussion.

SERMON NOTES

One of the most important, but most overlooked responsibilities we have each Sunday morning is listening to the preached Word of God. Listening to a sermon is not a passive, mindless, or entertaining activity. It’s our opportunity to actively engage the Word of God. It takes work to listen to a sermon!

GAINING THE MOST FROM THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

Plan to bring your Bible and this book with you on Sunday mornings. Take notes, read and listen to what God’s Word says and consider how it impacts your life, your family, and our church.

Throughout the week, meditate on the Scriptures taught as well as your notes.

Talk and pray with family and friends about THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID after church.

Act on the sermon throughout the week.



No shirt, no shoes, no service.

April 8

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



INSPIRATION

Whenever we venture out in public, we want to put on our best self. We try to clean up on the inside and outside when we go to work, shopping, church, etc. We want the world to see the best of us. One of the most profound aspects of the gospel is that Jesus has never required us to clean up before coming to Him. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Since we have no power to clean our sins, Jesus actually requires us to come as we are. He is the only one who can clean us up and make us presentable to a lost world. Yet sometimes we think we are too much the opposite of holy to come before a holy God. But that is far from the truth.

Even Judas was not beyond the mercy, grace and love of God. Had he asked for forgiveness, had he repented of his betrayal, God's love would have washed him clean. Profound, isn't it? But considering that Jesus asked God to forgive the soldiers at the cross who mocked and tortured Him, considering His statement that they had no idea what they were doing, we shouldn't be surprised to know that He would extend the same grace to Judas. He would extend the same grace to any of us. He already has. Does that give you hope? Put a smile on your face? It should.

What a relief to know that when the world tells us "No shirt, no shoes, no service", Jesus says "No shirt? No shoes? No problem!" He does His best work when we come to Him knowing that only He can take us at our worse.



APPLICATION

Ask God to show you if there is someone in your life who you may have put stipulations on in order for you to love them.

Ask God for the strength and courage to put all of your requirements aside and help you to love them as He does.

Ask God to show you how to allow yourself to receive His Grace for yourself.



No shirt, no shoes, no service.

CONTEMPLATION

1. Is there something in my life, past or present that keeps me from coming to God openly and honestly?

2. If Jesus can ask His Father to forgive the soldiers who nailed Him to the cross, is there anything that is really too ugly for His love?

3. Is there someone you know who could use the kind of grace that God extends to all of us? Can you be someone who extends grace to them?



ELABORATION

It's easy to sit in judgement of other people that are making mistakes. Typically we would prefer to not think of our own mistakes when we do this. Who were the Pharisees that criticized the company that Jesus kept? History tells us that they tried to be known as the best authority on Jewish Law. The story from Luke 5 tells us that they may have been an authority on Jewish law, but they also seemed to be quick to judge. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge or you too will be judged". How did the Pharisees become so knowledgeable of Jewish law, but miss the point of God's love? Their judgement here is toward the "sinners" that Jesus was spending time with, but only in part. Most of their judgement seems to be pointed toward Jesus. Verses like Luke 5:32 help us to see that Jesus is a friend to sinners. The question for us today is, "How can we show love to those that may be struggling with sin without falling into temptation ourselves?". And, how do we keep ourselves from falling into the temptation of judging others. Is it easy to love those in sin? Or is it easier to judge people who seem to be living a life of sin?

Further Reading - Matthew 7:2-5; Luke 6:31-42; John 8:1-8; James 2:1-13

PRAYERS & PRAISE



No shirt, no shoes, no service.

Follow me and you will have nice things.

April 15

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



10

Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



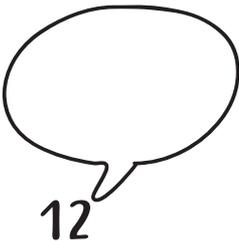
INSPIRATION

In one popular Christian song, Rich Mullens writes:

*Surrender don't come natural to me
I'd rather fight You for something I don't really want
Than to take what you give that I need
And I've beat my head against so many walls
Now I'm falling down... I'm falling on my knees*

These lyrics speak to the heart of many who believe, consciously or subconsciously, that we should want for nothing, simply based on our relationship with God. We errantly use scripture to justify beliefs that we should have 'the desires of our hearts', but conveniently overlook the need to yield our hearts to God. While God is intimately aware of our needs and desires, He is much more concerned about the condition of our soul and our need for a healing that is deeper than we even perceive.

Consider some of the spiritual giants of the bible that God himself held in high esteem: Moses - who was chosen to lead the entire Israelite nation out of captivity - never had it easy. Neither did Noah - who was found to be the only righteous man alive in his time. David was called a man after God's own heart. Yet even after enduring many years of persecution and ultimately ascending to the throne, he still did not find peace in all the things he had attained.



Finally, Jesus himself, the very Son of God - didn't live a wealthy life, lacking nothing. Why do we assume, or even hope we will? We tend to look at what we have and what we lack as rewards or punishments from God. This is just not the case. It may be a difficult thought to reconcile,

but God desires to meet our needs with His PRESENCE, not with His PRESENTS. The more we dwell in His presence, the more He illuminates our perceptions of what we need and want, gradually transforming them into reality.

APPLICATION

If we go through life holding tightly to the things WE want, we can't receive the things GOD wants for us – our hands are closed. Not only can we not receive from God with clinched fists, we also ultimately end up squeezing the life out of what we do hold. What you give to God, you keep. What you keep from God, you lose. (Ref. Mark 8:35) Live each day open-handed to the leading and presence of God. It's been said that the most miserable Christian is the one that just won't die. The very act of "seeking YOUR life" is exactly what will cause you to lose it. But giving it freely to God results in abundant life. Make the priority of your life giving more of it away to God each day, as opposed to living each day for how much you can gain for yourself.



Follow me and you will have nice things.

CONTEMPLATION

1. In what areas of your life are your fists clinched?

2. How have your perceptions of the rewards and punishments of God affected your faith?

3. What steps do you need to take to give more of yourself away?



ELABORATION

One of the costs of following Jesus has to do with the things that we have to give up as a follower of Christ. One example of these “things” that we have to give up has nothing to do with things at all. Being a follower of Christ means giving up revenge and hatred. Mark 11:25 says “And when you stand and pray, forgive anything that you have against anyone.” Jesus is also even more pointed about forgiveness in Matthew 6:14. Jesus is clear. It is costly to follow Jesus. It will cost you all of your hate, anger, bitterness, and vengeance. If you’re in the habit of holding on to things, then it is a good idea to look back on what Jesus told us about forgiveness. Have you had difficulty with forgiveness, and why was this important to Jesus? Is this a real cost?

Further Reading - Colossians 3:1-14; Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 14:33; Luke 16:13

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Follow me and you will have nice things.

You don't have to tithe.

April 22

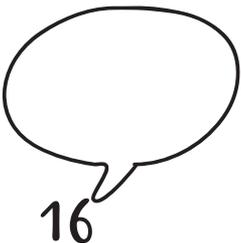
Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:

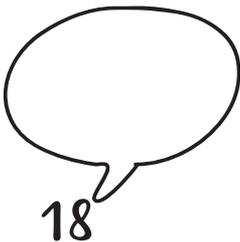


INSPIRATION

Luke 6:46-49 ⁴⁶ “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed, and its destruction was complete.”

In Luke 6, Christ explains what it is like when we do, or do not do, what He has asked of us. Jesus is saying that the person who does what He says is wise. The person that hears, yet does not do as He says is, indeed, foolish.

Many Christians struggle with the subject of tithing, wondering if they are required to give financially and, if so, how much. In 1 Corinthians, Paul explains to the church in Corinth that they are to set aside a sum of money each week to give (1 Corinthians 16:2). The Old Testament specifically refers to this required giving as the tithe, which literally means ten percent of one’s income. Jesus himself affirms this expectation in Matthew 23:23 when He tells the religious leaders “You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things”, like justice, mercy, and faith. His emphasis was on the heart with which we give, but His point is if God truly has our hearts, tithing only scratches the surface of building our lives on His foundation.



APPLICATION

Think about a doctor. There are many disciplines in this profession that are related to maintaining the skill, knowledge, and even genuine concern about his or her patients. We all know that doctors are held to very high standards and if the doctor performs all facets of the job well, they would likely be deemed excellent in the field. Isn't this the kind of doctor you want, one that you know really cares about you and is completely committed to acquiring and maintaining every discipline needed to truly care for your physical needs? You may even arrive at the conclusion that this doctor loves you as their patient because of their commitment to you. However, if the doctor is lacking in any area, you may have concerns about being their patient.

Like a doctor, there are also many disciplines involved in being a Christian. If we truly love God, then we will want Him to be pleased with what we bring to our relationship with Him. If we love Him with our whole heart, then wouldn't we want to give Him all of us? What makes us hold back parts of our lives from God? Does God despair at our lack of commitment to Him when we do not submit ourselves wholly to Him?

Tithing is not a financial issue, rather it is one of many disciplines that shows God that we love Him fully and truly. Tithing is a spiritual issue. If you are not currently tithing, please consider it for the purpose of growing your relationship with God and growing His kingdom. Sit down with your budget and ask God to show you how you can give. Sometimes it takes practicing a skill to become excellent at it, just like an experienced doctor. Start small with your tithing if you need to. But just get started. You may need to work your way up to ten percent. Or maybe you already tithe, but God wants

You don't have to tithe.

you to give a gift above your ten percent. Pray and ask God what He wants you to do, then act on it! Show God that you trust and love Him and that He is your treasure!

CONTEMPLATION

1. Are you aware of what you treasure in this life? You will know by reflecting on where you spend your time and by what you are willing to give up. Are you willing to give your treasure(s) to God?

2. Do you long to know God more? Do you truly hunger after Him? If not, what is stopping you?

3. Are there areas in your life that you know God has blessed you and shown you how much He loves you?

4. What can you do to show God or continue to show God that you want to be closer to Him?

5. Do you feel like your relationship with God is built well, like the one who dug down and built on solid rock? What steps can you take to have the security that when trouble comes, your relationship with God will stand firm?

ELABORATION

I Timothy 6:10 talks about the love of money. Paul tells Timothy that the love of money is the root of all evil. Obviously the love of money could be something that might affect a person's tithing, but what other things may get in the way? Fear is often a culprit that interrupts giving to the church and other organizations. A family might be afraid of not having enough money to sustain itself because of giving. Giving can become a real faith issue. "Do I believe that God will take care of me if I give everything up for Him?" God speaks through Paul in II Corinthians 9:7 "God loves a cheerful giver." It's hard to be fearful and cheerful at the same time. How does God want us to overcome our fear or our love of money? Why are fear and love of money even temptations? How do we overcome these things?

Further Reading - Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:9-10

You'll get what you want if you pray hard enough.

April 29

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



INSPIRATION

James 5:13-18 ¹³ *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”*

In this passage, it says that if we have a specific need, we should pray. James tells us to pray if we are suffering, cheerful, sick or in need of forgiveness. He reminds us that Elijah, a righteous man, received quite an amazing answer from God when he prayed for no rain, and then later, for rain. It is safe to say that James meant for us to pray about everything, but how do we know that God hears our prayers? Do we always get what we pray for if we are *righteous* enough? Let's take illness as an example. The Bible tells us to pray for healing. But we still know people that remain ill, whether it be a minor illness or one that is terminal. Does that mean God does not answer prayer? Or, does it mean that God only answers the prayers of those deemed righteous, like Elijah? Perhaps, we have the wrong idea about prayer. Prayer is how we converse with our Father, God. As Christians, we should love God with all that we are. Is our prayer life evidence of that?



APPLICATION

We all know that person that just talks and talks, never letting anyone else get a word in. If we are honest, we have been that person a time or two. But, that's not a real conversation. Webster defines conversation as an oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas. When we do all the talking, it is no longer a conversation since there is no exchange happening.

Have you ever seen a newly dating couple that really enjoys talking to each other? They listen to one another intently, hanging on every word, and take turns sharing their thoughts. They cannot wait to talk to the other when they are apart. Prayer with God should be like that. We should long to converse with Him. Then prayer becomes more about our relationship with God than about asking Him for things. We should ask of Him, but the focus should always be Him and how we fit into His plan.

We often do not know what to pray for. It's not that we do not know what we want or that we do not see areas in desperate need of prayer. Rather we do not want to ask Him for something that is not His will. Psalm 37:4 tells us to delight ourselves in the Lord and He will give us the desires of our hearts. Most people only remember the latter part of this verse and forget that we are to *delight* in the Lord. It is like a cause and effect relationship. When we seek the Lord and delight in Him, THEN He gives us the desires of our heart.

This means He places within you the desires He wants to fulfill in you when you please Him. If you are single and desire a Godly mate, pray for that. But also pray for God to put the desire in



You'll get what you want if you pray hard enough.

you that fulfills His plan for your life. If you need healing, pray for that. But also pray that He brings glory to Himself through your life. If you want a new job, pray for it. But also that He places you where you need to be to further His kingdom. It may be right where you are! You get the idea. Pray for God to place desires within your heart that bring about His purpose.

If you struggle with prayer, you are not alone! Try asking God to teach you how to pray. Yes, that seems very simple, but can be effective when you just don't know where to begin. Sometimes you can talk to God as though He were one of your friends that you hang out with. Just be yourself, He wants something real with us. You can also pray scripture – yes, actual Bible verses. This can be a great way to allow Him to speak to you through His word. Another idea is to write down your prayers, or prayer journaling. Whatever you choose is a great option. Just talk with Him.

CONTEMPLATION

1. Have you given thought to what you should be praying for? Do you make it a habit to ask God what you should pray for and about?

2. Do you long to talk to God? Is He your “go to” when you need someone to listen? If not, why is that?



3. Are you struggling with your prayer life? If so, can you identify the issue? Maybe you just don't know what to pray for, or maybe you feel like God is not listening to you? Take some time to reflect on what is keeping you from a fulfilling prayer life.

4. When you think about the desires of your heart, are they Godly pursuits or is it your own will deep inside?

ELABORATION

Exodus 12:40 tells us that the Israelites were in Egypt for hundreds of years before God rescued them from their captivity. During this time period it must have been very difficult to see generations crying out to God and he chose not to answer yes on their time. God's time is certainly different than ours. II Peter 3:8 says "with the Lord a day is like a thousand years." Paul's letter to Peter is trying to help us remember that our time and God's time are not always the same. Is it difficult imagining God's time as opposed to our time? Why do we sometimes want God to act very quickly? Why does God sometimes seem to act very slowly?

Further Reading - Philippians 4:6; John 15:7; Mark 11:24; Romans 8:26; Matthew 6:6-7; Luke 11:9; I Timothy 2:1-4

You'll get what you want if you pray hard enough.

I can't handle your situation.

May 6

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



INSPIRATION

We serve a BIG God! We serve a God who is in control! We serve a God who has never wrung His hands over anything - a God who cannot be shaken by circumstances. We serve a God who takes every measure to work all things together for good...All things. He has never looked at the world and wondered what to do. He has never looked at your circumstances and wondered what to do! He has never been confused about any situation. God doesn't say, "I wonder what is going to happen....". He doesn't look at what is happening and wonder what we will do? He knows. We know that God is all-knowing and present everywhere. And we can be sure that never in the history of the world has God ever said: "Oops! I didn't see that coming." Whatever you are going through now, He is BIG enough. Whatever is coming your way next, He is BIG enough. We have confidence. We have hope because God is big enough for all our stuff.

Don't let your feelings about what you're going through cloud what you know about God. Don't let the dark overwhelm you. God is with you there, handling things in a way that only He can. You have the honor of being a child of the one true King! Rest assured that He's got you!



APPLICATION

Have you ever been hit so hard by life that you just don't see a way out? You don't see a solution to the problem? Have you felt like even God had thrown His hands up and said "I can't handle this."? An illness hits and you're out of work for two years. You lose your house, your car, your dignity. And there seems to be no end in sight.

You have surgery and find yourself addicted to pain killers. You're arrested for your third DUI and you end up in jail. You have a gambling problem...Sexual addiction...A troubled marriage...Troubled children. Where is your hope anchored? Do you have hope? Or do you believe that there is no way out of your turmoil? What evidence do you have for your hope? Or your despair?

What do you know about God's character that can help you believe that He is able? Are there references from the bible that encourage you? Consider how God has been faithful to some of your favorite Bible characters.



I can't handle your situation.

CONTEMPLATION

1. What are some things that you can do to see truth when you feel like God can't help you?

2. Try seeing God through your rearview mirror. Sometime the clearest way of seeing that He never fails us is by looking back on all the times He has come through for us.

3. Journal your walk with God so that you can look back during hard times and see that He never fails.

4. Dig into the word of God. See His faithfulness in the past. Know His character so that you can believe that He will be faithful with you.



ELABORATION

Trusting God is easy on a sunny day when everything is going your way. This quickly brings up the idea of God’s will, God’s timing, and God’s unquestionable power. God gives us instruction about this in Paul’s letter to the Romans 12:2. “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God.”

When thinking of God’s will, the safest place to start is to understand that God’s perspective is different than ours. This means that often his will may be different than ours. It is important to not try to impose our will onto God, but to remain humble in our requests of God. This can be especially difficult if you are suffering. It is wise to “be transformed by the renewal of [our] mind” on a daily basis. If we have renewed our mind daily in the Spirit of Christ, then hopefully we will be more understanding about God’s will when we are struggling. How can we be transformed by the renewal of our mind? Is accepting God’s will is ever difficult?

Further Reading - I Kings 17:17-24; II Kings 5:1-14; John 5:1-16

PRAYERS & PRAISE



I can't handle your situation.

You don't have to do everything I've told you.

May 13

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



INSPIRATION

To be loved as deeply as God loves us is unfathomable. Just to contemplate what He went through so that He could have a relationship with us can fill us with gratitude and a fierce love in return. But His is a love that demands a response. It demands loyalty to Him. Can we love Him and still follow the one who made himself God's enemy? Can we walk with Him and walk with the one who defies Him? With God, we are called to choose sides. What will you choose? Obedience? Or "just this one little thing"?

In 2 Timothy we are warned that there will come a time when we abandon sound doctrine and listen to that which tickles our ears. In other words, we will leave the word of God for what makes us feel good. We will believe lies about the word of God because our desire to be with Him, is not enough to let go of our sins. We convince ourselves that if the world, or even better, an errant "pastor" says it's okay, then it must be okay. But do we actually take the time to dig into the word to see what God said about it? Do we really want to know the truth? Or are we content to believe in a God who exists to accommodate us?

Does God condemn the sinner? Absolutely not! But He does still condemn sin... **All** sin. Everything He ever said was a sin is still a sin. But God has made sure we can always reach Him. He makes it very clear that a complete relationship with Him requires a complete turning from our sin.

And though He is very adamant about our sins and our sin nature, His love still reaches us.



APPLICATION

You don't have to look very far to see children of God who have decided to pick and choose the words of God that they will live by. Maybe we convince ourselves that it was the God of the Old Testament who could not abide sin. We think, "Jesus died for all our sins, and that means we're covered. And because sin is covered by the blood, we are okay if we sin." Maybe we believe that the God of the Old Testament has adapted to us - that He will see how we have changed in what we believe is permissible, and that He will change accordingly and deem that what we are doing is no longer considered a sin. Or that as long as we follow this particular commandment and that one, that He will overlook others. We believe this to be "good enough". Are we then making ourselves gods and making Him irrelevant?

The truth is that God cannot (will not) tolerate our sin. He is a holy God and cannot live in harmony with the wrongs that we do. So if our choice is to hold tightly to our sin, to rebel against His holiness, we are choosing a life apart from Him.

If the punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23), and we accept that Jesus died the horrible death of the cross so as to cleanse us from our sin so that we could have a life with Him, then we can understand the lengths He would go to in order to free us from sin. But if it is acceptable for us to stay in our sin, then it was unnecessary for God to go to such lengths for us. And that makes what He did foolish. But we know the truth.



You don't have to do everything I've told you.

CONTEMPLATION

1. Study what God has to say about sin. Compare it to what others are telling you. Choose which one you will believe.

2. Ask God to show you if there is any sin in your life. He is faithful to do so.

3. Is it evident by the way I live that I love God more than I love the world?

4. What areas are the most difficult for you to surrender to God? Think about why it is so hard to give it up. Consider what you need to do to surrender.

5. Find an accountability partner, someone who will not just tell you what you want to hear, but will be very honest with you about the word of God.



ELABORATION

Jesus was radical when it comes to taking a stand against sin. In Matthew 5:30 Jesus says “if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off.” Was Jesus really telling us to mutilate our bodies? No. But Jesus was making sure that we take a stand against sin. There may be things in our life that we consider important. Jesus wanted his followers to know, that it does not matter how important we think something is if it causes us to sin or stumble. Jesus’ words instruct us to take drastic action against anything that may cause us to sin. Have you ever had to make hard choices and give something up because it became a stumbling block? Why did Jesus take the time to speak to us about sometimes giving up important things?

Further Reading - Romans 6:1-14; Galatians 4:8-20; I I; Peter 1:13- 25; Hebrews 3:7-19; Hebrews 6:1-12

PRAYERS & PRAISE



You don't have to do everything I've told you.

Life is going to be easy.

May 20

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:

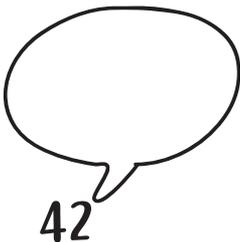


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INSPIRATION

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”*

Matthew 11:30 says that Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light. Because of this, many people may think that choosing to be a Christian is easy. But, let's not forget the verses directly preceding this one. The Scripture talks about people who are weary and heavily loaded down with life, people who do not have peace. These are not the characteristics of an easy, carefree life. But, wait! Verse 30 says that Jesus' yoke is easy... If the Christian life is not easy, what does this mean? Think about an actual yoke. Farmers would put a yoke on livestock when it was time for them to work the fields. The yoke has two collars, a place for two animals to work side by side, allowing the workload to be shared. I've even heard of a lighter yoke where one of the collars is larger than the other causing one animal to take more of the load while the other is in training. Sometimes it feels like that with Jesus, like he carries the heaviest part of our burdens for us while He is training us to handle more. So, God doesn't say you won't have any troubles. He just says that He will help you carry your load, giving you peace and rest. All you have to do is give it to Him.



APPLICATION

What burden are you bearing? If you're not bearing one right now, you can be sure one is coming. The old adage says, "you have to have your bad days to appreciate the good ones". But, in those rough patches, are we resting in Jesus? When you and the ex-spouse don't see eye-to-eye on how best to meet the needs of your child, do you give it to God? When stress is burying you alive at work, do you let God give you the grace to remain calm? When the unexpected life change is hurled at you without warning; do you try to control it all, or do you find peace in Jesus? When tragedy strikes, what do you have to hold on to? Do you carry the weight on your own, or do you empty yourself into your Heavenly Father?

Has tragedy struck in your life? It can be quite traumatic. It can come in a moment's notice. And it can leave us in utter shock. It can leave us completely numb in one instant and then to deep despair in the next moment. BUT, in all of it we have God to hold on to. Actually, He will hold us. He will walk with us through the most difficult of situations. In fact, it's hard to imagine just how lost those without Jesus are. So, know this, there are difficult times to come. Those times, where we learn to lean on Jesus more, will be heartbreaking. But He gives use peace and rest until we feel the joy again.



Life is going to be easy.

CONTEMPLATION

1. We all have little “pet peeves” and situations that bring us frustration throughout the day. Are you so focused on God that you can keep these things in perspective and let them “roll off your sleeve,” or is this an area in your life that you need to give to God?

2. How do you know if you have given your burdens to the Lord? What are some indicators that you have done so, or have not?

3. Are there times in your life that you know, without a doubt, that God was carrying your burden? How do you know?

4. When life starts getting too busy or stressful, do you hold tight to what little control you have, or do you hand it over to Jesus? Consider any areas in your life that you need His help and the rest only He can offer.



ELABORATION

In John 15:18, Jesus lets us know that the world hated him first. There are many things about Jesus that do not line up with what the world believes. The world says that success has everything to do with financial wealth. Jesus impacted the world forever with very little money related to his ministry. The world says that a king should act “kingly”. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, one of the most humble rides ever. Jesus assures us that he will give us rest. Read Matthew 11:38. How are you encouraged by Jesus’ words “I will give you rest.?”

Further Reading - James 1:2-18; Isaiah 40:30-31; Romans 15:13; Daniel 1:1-21

PRAYERS & PRAISE



Life is going to be easy.

There will never be world peace.

May 27

Sermon Notes

Scriptures: _____

Big Idea:



Notes:



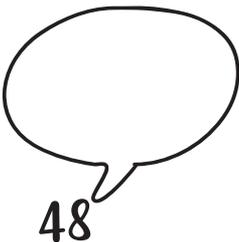
Thoughts/Questions:

My steps for next week:



INSPIRATION

The Bible is filled with stories where relationships and expectations were dictated by a person's status in society. Kings and rulers were to be revered and obeyed and lepers were to be quarantined and ostracized. Everyone in between also knew their roles, and as long everyone stayed in those roles, conflict was avoided. It was how they "kept the peace". But when Jesus came, He interrupted the system where the person with the most might is always right. Jesus questioned and challenged those in authority while simultaneously befriending sinners and seeking out the sick. While the rest of society was only interested in, or at least accustomed to, keeping the peace, Christ came to offer real peace. However, the peace he brought did not come about by simply ignoring the wrongs of some, while punishing the wrongs of others. His peace only came to those who accepted their wrongs first being exposed, then forgiven, delivered, and restored. It's as if "peace" had to be disturbed in order to experience PEACE – inner peace and peace with God and man. This is true peace.



APPLICATION

Peace is both internal and external. It is possible to be in the middle of a war and still have peace. Likewise, you can experience major inner turmoil where no external struggle exists. In either case, peace can be very elusive. Making peace can be harder than waging war. Coming to a point of “mutual harmony”, as peace is defined, can be difficult even with someone who sees the world similarly to you, much less someone with opposing views. And there are many situations in our lives and in our world that disturb our inner peace. Christ offers an inner peace that exceeds our ability to comprehend it and it is made perfect for those whose minds are stayed on Him. The key here, not surprisingly, is Christ. Similarly, differences with others will grow dim when looking through the eyes of Jesus. Pride and ego can isolate us, shutting ourselves in and other out. But like He always has, Christ exposes and expels pride and ego. He chooses relationships over rights and rules and helps us to do the same. Allow Him to expose the wrongs that exist in you today. Accept the interruption to your “peace” so that you can experience His PEACE. Then pursue peace with others by looking at them and the situations through Christ’s eyes.



There will never be world peace.

CONTEMPLATION

1. How does this affect your understanding of peace to this point? Peace with God, self, and others?

2. Are there areas in your life where your perceived peace may need to be interrupted to attain true peace?

3. Have you made peace with God?

4. Is there anyone in your life with whom you need to make peace?



ELABORATION

How does Jesus instruct us to deal with conflict? For starters he tells us to first seek Jesus and peace. He then tells us to be direct. In Matthew 18:15 Jesus says “If your brother sins against you, go and point out their fault just between the two of you.” This can be a difficult step in conflict resolution. There is something difficult about sitting with someone that you feel offended by. Why does Jesus tell us to start by going to someone one on one? How can this be difficult? What happens if we skip this step? Why is it human nature to go to others instead of the person who offended us? Romans 12:18 instructs us to live at peace with others. How can we go to someone that we feel offended us and still live at peace?

Further Reading - Matthew 18:15-20; James 4:1-6; Romans 12:17-19; I Corinthians 13:1-3; Philipians 2:1-7

PRAYERS & PRAISE



There will never be world peace.



LEGACY CHURCH



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Things Jesus Never Said