

Matthew Week 24: Of Prophets and Power

Scripture Memory of the Month

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.
Ephesians 4:26

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Read Matthew 14:1-12

Have someone retell this story out loud. (As a group, help them. What did they miss?)

What stands out to you from this passage?

John is faithful even when it's difficult and dangerous. He is faithful even though it ends up costing him everything. What do you feel God has called you to do?

Where do you find yourself tempted to back away from faithfulness in order to maintain your personal comfort?

What would it look like for you if you moved forward faithfully towards what God has asked of you? What might it cost you?

Herod did whatever it took to maintain his comfort, position, and to gain his desires. He silenced the voice of God in his life so that he could have what he wanted, unhindered. Take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you where you may be doing the same thing (resisting his voice so that you can have what you want).

In what areas of life are you tempted to do this? How can we as a group grow together in faithfulness?

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.