

Matthew Week 49: Ready or Not

Scripture Memory of the Month

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

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

These questions are designed to help us study the word together, apply it to our lives, and then see the gospel in this passage. Take some time in each section together, engaging with one another's insights as we study the Bible together.

Read Matthew 24:44-51

What is the point of this parable? How do you know from the text?

In what ways are you tempted to be unloving or selfish?

In what ways are you tempted towards seeking pleasure and sin rather than the Lord?

Read Matthew 25:1-13

What is the point of this parable? How do you know from the text?

In what ways would you say you have not prepared for the long haul in faithfulness?

Are you prone to spurts of energy given towards faithfulness that always lose steam? Why do you think this is?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

What is the purpose of this parable? How do you know from the text?

Do you believe you are using what God has given you in a way that advances his kingdom?

What assets/abilities do you have that you think you may be wasting?

Take a moment to pray together for the Holy Spirit to point these out to you.

Given these three parables - what is your next step towards in preparing to be ready for the return of Christ?

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.