



The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look at next Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week and prepare for the upcoming Sunday. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:

*And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. **Matthew 7:28-29***

HYMN: “Nothing Either Great or Small”

Weary, working, burdened one,
Wherefore toil you so?
Cease your doing; all was done
Long, long ago.

Till to Jesus’ work you cling
By a simple faith,
Doing is a deadly thing—
Doing ends in death.

Cast your deadly doing down—
Down at Jesus’ feet;
Stand in Him, in Him alone,
Gloriously complete.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Did anything stick with you from the readings or the songs we sang together? What was it and why did it stick with you?
- What do you remember most from our Sermon on the Mount series? Was there anything that was new for you (new concept, new way of hearing Jesus, etc.)?
- How would you explain the difference between Religion and the Gospel?
- Why is there no ‘good news’ in religion and what is the ‘good news’ of the Gospel?
- Where/when/how do you see yourself believing the message of religion rather than the Gospel?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

- What did you like about being with the church this week? Who did you really like seeing and talking to?
- What did Jesus do for us? Why did he have to do that?
- Can we just be really good and God will be happy with us? Why or Why not?
- Who do we know that doesn't know that Jesus loves them that we can pray for?

SONGS WE SANG:

[Mighty To Save](#) by Hillsong

[Come Boldly to the Throne of Grace](#) by Red Mountain Church

[My Rock and My Redeemer](#) by Sojourn

[In Christ Alone](#) by Page CXVI

READINGS:

Call to Worship

L: He is the Creator of the ends of the earth,
The Governor of the universe,
The Judge of all men,
The Head of the church,
The Savior of sinners;

C: His greatness is unsearchable,

His goodness infinite,

His compassions unfailing,

His providence boundless,

His mercies ever new.

We bless You for the words of salvation.

L: How important, suitable, encouraging
are the doctrines, promises, and invitations
of the gospel of peace!

We are lost: but You have invited us to
a full, free and eternal salvation;

We are weak: but here we learn that help is found in
One that is mighty,

We are poor: but in Him we discover unsearchable riches,

We are blind: but we find he has treasures of wisdom
and knowledge.

C: We thank thee for thy unspeakable gift.

L: Jesus is our only refuge, foundation, hope,
confidence;

We depend upon his death,
rest in his righteousness,
desire to bear his image;

C: May his glory fill our minds,

his love reign in our affections,

his cross inflame us with passion.

- Adapted from the Valley of Vision

Prayer of Confession

L: Lord God, You are faithful, loving, worthy of trust and praise. We are often disloyal, hateful and deserve death.

C: Lord, we forget that you are our true source of hope and strength. We are tempted to lean upon our own power to accomplish good and to break the power of sin.

L: Lord, we will fail without your help.

C: Forgive us for consulting the wisdom of man before bowing before you in prayer. Forgive us for relying on the perishable rather than your enduring word. Help us to trust in your son Jesus, and find rest in the promises that were made in His blood. In his name we plead for mercy. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Our God is one who revives the dead, exalts the humble, and adopts the sinner. Because of Jesus we have peace with God as our Father and peace with each other as part of His family. Take a moment to greet each other this morning with that gospel peace.

Word of Assurance

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Benediction

L: May our covenant God encompass you with the mysterious power of His Spirit and transform you to become more and more like Christ.

Go in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON NOTES

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

SERMON SUMMARY

The message of Jesus is NOT good vs. bad, but religion vs. gospel

We looked at two things: 1) What was the reaction to Jesus teaching and 2) Why was that the reaction?

1. WHAT WAS THE REACTION?

- They were “astonished” (v.28) meaning *dumbfounded, struck with amazement, or shocked*
 - This was NOT just another religious teaching from another religious teacher. Matthew wants to make sure you know that. The people there listening certainly knew that and their reaction showed it.
- Whatever we want to say about Jesus, we CANNOT say he was another religious teacher. He wasn't. That's not what the people who heard him originally would have said. They were ASTONISHED. SHOCKED by his teaching. He couldn't have been just saying the same things as previous teachers of the law, but just saying it better or more eloquently. That doesn't leave people IN SHOCK. That just leaves people *pleasantly surprised or really glad they came out, it was well worth their time for that word of encouragement.*

2. WHY WAS THAT THE REACTION

Two Reasons: a) What He did to classic categories of “good vs. bad” and b) The Authority He assumed

a) What He did to the classic categories “good vs. bad” comparison

- The example of *two trees* (v.15-20) and *two houses* (v.24-27) shows Jesus is talking about something that can't be seen from the outside. Both trees are producing fruit. Both houses look like great houses. But one fruit is poisonous and one house is built on a faulty foundation.
- Jesus message is NOT “Live a good life, not a wicked life” or simply “Obeying God, don't disobey God” or “Be nice, don't be mean” That's the message the religious teachers - *Good behavior vs. Bad behavior* or Religious vs. Nonreligious.
- **The distinction Jesus makes blows that out of the water.** He is always contrasting two groups of people but his contrast is not between good and bad or religious and irreligious, it's RELIGION vs GOSPEL. That is why everyone is astonished, they have never heard such a distinction.
- Jesus is warning- **DON'T MISTAKE RELIGION FOR THE GOSPEL!** Because the consequence is tragic.
- Understand the distinction- Religious people do good, they give to the poor, but why? For the poor? No, they are doing it to be seen by others. As Jesus told us in ch.6. If your “loving” and serving and religious activity is to fill a void within yourself or to reassure yourself that you are good, then you are doing those things for you and not for others. You're merely using others to serve yourself.
- Religion works from outside-in (starting with behavior), Gospel works inside-out, giving us an inner fullness and then our actions flow from that.

b) The Authority Jesus Assumed

- *Matthew 7:29* “for he was teaching them as one **who had authority**, and not as their scribes.”
- *The Scribes spoke from a derived authority* from the law and prophets, ie- they were speaking FOR God. Jesus comes along and speaks AS God.
- **Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...”
- **Matthew 7:22-23** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’
- Jesus is claiming to be Lord (God), Judge of the world, and Gatekeeper of Heaven.
- Finally, Jesus shows the ultimate existence is being WITH HIM (his words to those who didn't accept his grace is “ I never knew you depart from me...”
 - Jesus says, “Whether you know it or not, you were seeking for me. When you realize you have lost me, you'll realize you've lost everything.”

If you want to move from religion to christianity you have to

- 1) See your wretched state
 - Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those *who hunger and thirst for righteousness*, for they shall be satisfied.
- 2) See Him who who lived the perfect life for you
 - Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- 3) See Him who laid down his life for you, see His love for you, receive His love and realize it is the only thing that could give you fullness and new life
- 4) Look at any good things you are doing and see that they are NOT at all meritorious. They don't gain you anything. But now you realize you have the filling you need in Christ.

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

To help you prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday, we encourage you to read the scripture & readings and listen to the songs we'll be singing this Sunday. May God prepare our hearts to hear what He has to say to us.

****This week's time of worship together is going to be a little different. Along with singing together, we are going to read through the entire sermon on the mount together and go through a prayer liturgy together. Here is some of what we'll be doing.**

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Prayer of Silence & Listening

Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

Heavenly Father,

On our minds right now is the to do list of things that need done at our house, the emails and phone calls that we need to get to, and the many tasks that await us in the week ahead. The list is much bigger than our idol of control can tolerate. By your Spirit, settle, center, and free us to trust you. We want to be present with your church right now, and attentive to your voice.

We begin by acknowledging yet again that you are God and we are not. That you are in control of all things, and we are not.

We don't want our goal for the week to be simply to get a bunch of stuff done. We want to receive your love and give that love to others. But we realize we will have little to give if we are not receiving from you. May you, who will be honored in every nation and throughout the world be honored in our church, our hearts, our homes, and our work.

Right now we want to simply be present with you. We want to listen to you, hear your small still voice, and enjoy your presence with us, right here, right now today.

Take a few minutes to simply enjoy God's presence and be still and quiet before Him....

Prayer of Confession & Lament

Dear heavenly Father,

For your joyful welcome and heart of mercy, we give you praise. For your patience and forbearance we worship and adore you. Apart from our standing in grace, we could not stand before you. In humility and hope, we offer our confession

Forgive us for being selfish with our money and your grace

Forgive us for indulging our fantasies and nursing our grudges

Forgive us for being slow to listen and quick to complain

Forgive us for using your grace to excuse our sin and using your law to control others.

[[Take a few moments now to confess your sins to your Father who has forgiveness waiting for you...]]

Prayer of Assurance of Salvation

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Dear Jesus, nothing is more surprising to us than to hear that we are "in Christ". In you, we have more than we need, more than we realize, and more than we could ever want or hope for. When God rescued us from the dominion of darkness and hid our life in you, we became part of the new creation era. Every promise in the Old Testament finds its emphatic "Yes!" In you. Every vision of the New Heavens and New Earth will be fully realized because you completely fulfilled the work God gave you to do. You are the Lamb of God who took away our sin; the Lord of Lords, who is making all things new; the Lamp of the New City, whose glory will radiate the new heaven and new earth. Hallelujah, what a savior you are! Hallelujah, what a salvation we have in you!

Take a few moments to tell Jesus what it means to you that He saved you by his life, death, and resurrection.

Prayer of Thankfulness

Corinthians 4:7 says:

What do you have that you did not receive?

We realize that we have only because He has given. All we have is a gift from Him. Lets thank Him for His goodness towards us...

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

for the breath

that sustains life,

for the food of this earth

that nurtures life,

for the love of family and friends

without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty

that the eye can see,

for the joy

that the ear may hear,

for the unknown

that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,

And draws us to consider there is a Creator

We thank you for setting us in communities

We thank you for this church, where we can know of your presence

for family and friends who love us

For jobs that provide, and coworkers to share daily tasks with

for children who lighten our moments with delight.

We thank you for this day:

for life and one more day to love,

for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace,

for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom be loved,

for your grace and one more experience of your presence,

for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

For these, and all blessings,

we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, through Jesus Christ.

Take a few moments to express your thanks to God for how He has particularly blessed you.

Prayers for Salvation of Others

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Lord, you have not only saved us, but also are telling the world about salvation through us. You have given us the message of reconciliation to take to our friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. We first have to ask for your forgiveness for not pursuing relationships with those who don't know you. We ask that you would give us hearts that desire to see others know of the saving power of Jesus.

Give us a heart to listen to those who don't know you. Let us truly love those in our lives who don't know you. Let us not see them as a project, but as someone who was created by you for relationship with you. Let us not see ourselves as better or smarter, but as sinners just like them who need a savior. May we share with them not simply the words of salvation but also our entire lives as well.

We bring to you now prayers for the salvation of our family, children, friends, neighbors, coworkers and others we know who don't yet know you.

Spend time now asking the Lord to save specific people in your life...