

Lead Like Jesus: Knowing the Master

Sermon Based Small Groups

Introductions (pick one or two):

- 1) Who was one famous person that you have met in your lifetime?
- 2) Who in your life "knows you better than you know yourself"?
- 3) When is one time that you followed someone into a place you never wanted to go?

Getting into the Word:

The book of Matthew is written by Matthew, who is also known as Levi. Matthew, at one time, was a tax collector and Jesus specifically called him to follow him (Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27-29). This book is an eye-witness account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The book was written before the destruction of the temple around 70 AD. Matthew is written primarily to Jewish believers to give them a record of Jesus' life and to prove that Jesus is Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Matthew, in stressing that Jesus is the Messiah, emphasizes the aspects of Jesus that show great leadership qualities. This is important since the Messiah was prophesied to be a great leader, and Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. Matthew is the best book for us to take a look at as we talk about **Leading like Jesus**.

Scripture Questions:

In your discussion of the text and the sermon, please use the questions that are most helpful for you to better understand the core teaching of the text.

Read **Matthew 16:13-25**:

What was Matthew's intent in recording these events?
How does it fit into the book of Matthew as a whole?

What was revealed about Jesus in this text?

How does Peter reveal that he knows the master?
How does Peter rebel against the master?

Why do you think Jesus renames Peter at this time?

Why do you think Matthew gives us so much information about the exchanges between Jesus and Peter?

How come Jesus tells the disciples not to tell anyone he is the Christ?

What did Jesus say his purpose was to do here on earth?

Why do you think Peter rebuked him?

How was the confession that Jesus was the Christ important to Jesus' next words about what Jesus was called to do?

What were the disciples expecting the "Messiah" to do on this earth?
How does Jesus redefine Peter's ideal of what the Messiah will do on earth?

What do you think Jesus means in verse 23 when he tells Peter that he has in mind the things of man and not of God?

In what ways is it easier to focus on the things of man?

How did Jesus redefine what it means to lead in this text?

In order to follow Jesus, how did the disciples have to deny themselves?

In what ways did Jesus have to deny himself to follow God's plan?

What activities and attitudes are at the heart of Christian discipleship and leadership?

How does a Christian forfeit his/her life?

Discussion:

Please use only the questions in your discussion that help you to apply the main point of the text to your life.

What is one thing that you learned from the sermon?

When and how did you make a public profession that Jesus is the Messiah?

When was one time that the weight of what Jesus did for you hit you?

How have you seen someone gain the whole world but forfeit their soul?

What does it look like for you to follow Jesus this next week?

What are some of the things that you need to surrender to him?

What does it look like for someone to lose their life in Jesus Christ?

What are some of the conversations that you have had with God?

If you were going to pick a new name that defined your purpose in Jesus Christ, what would that name be?

What have you learned from this lesson?

Prayer:

Pray for the leadership of Lutheran Church of the Cross including the boards, staff, and leadership teams.

For Further Study:

Lead Like Jesus, Ken Blanchard

Blue Like Jazz, Don Miller

Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders

The Barbarian Way, Erwin McManus

The Servant, James Hunter

The Dream Giver, Bruce Wilkinson

Developing the Leader within You, John Maxwell