

Lead Like Jesus: *The Way of Christ*

Sermon Based Small Groups

Introductions (pick one or two):

- 1) What is the best life lesson you ever learned by experience?
- 2) What is the best message you have ever received?
- 3) What is one piece of advice you were given when you started a new life adventure (career, marriage, having children)?

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 for Jewish believers to give them a record of Jesus' life and to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Matthew, in stressing that Jesus is the Messiah, emphasizes the great leadership qualities displayed by Jesus. This is important since the Messiah was prophesied to be a great leader. For this reason, 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 10: 5-14:

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

As Jesus sends out his disciples for the first time, what are some of the overall concepts he talks to them about in this passage?

What is important about these specific concepts as they go out?
What concept is most thought provoking to you?

What does Jesus give his disciples before telling them to go out into the villages?
Why was it important for Jesus give this to them?
Why do you think we are told the names of the disciples?
What does this have to do with this passage and the book of Matthew?

What were they to do if someone did not accept their message?
Why do you think they were sent to villages that God knew would not accept their message?
What does "shake the dust off their feet" mean?
How does this message talk about those who would receive the Gospel message?

What were the disciples to do in these towns?
What would this accomplish?

What lessons of leadership do you see in these passages?

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?

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

What are some of the places that you are called to take the Gospel Message in this life?
How can people turn away from this message?

How have you seen a child of a Christian parent reject the message of Jesus Christ even though they were raised in the faith?

What advice would you give the parent in this situation?

What are some of the things God has given us the authority to do as he sends us out (Matthew 28:19-20)?

Why is it important for us to remember this as we are called?

What does it look like to "shake the dust off your feet" at this time?

How does the fact that God cares for you give you comfort?

How does this not save us from discomfoting circumstances?

What are you going to take away from this lesson?

Prayer:

Pray for the missionaries from Lutheran Church of the Cross including Lisa Berry (in South Africa), and those going on mission trips to Mexico, Tibet, and our Youth Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in July.

For Further Study:

Lead Like Jesus, Ken Blanchard

Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Sanders

The Barbarian Way, Erwin McManus

The Servant, James Hunter

Leadership Summit (DVD), Bill Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church

Developing the Leader within You, John Maxwell