

Thursday, 1/26

We are a family of God, adopted by our Heavenly Father, redeemed by our matchless older brother. How do we live in God's family?

Read Matthew 12:46-50 and Micah 7:14-20.

Discuss how following Jesus reorients our priorities and loyalties.

Sing the song "Here I Am, Lord."

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Pray for the Almquist family as they learn church-planting ministry here in Portland and as they prepare for where God will have them serve.

Friday, 1/27

*Join folks from CTR for Friday morning prayer starting at **7:00 am** each Friday morning. It is held at Payson Park Evangelical Church on Ocean Ave.*

Read Matthew 10:29-33 and Psalm 68.

Meditate on "Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Pray for those society has thrown away. Ask the Lord how He might use us in ministering to them and defending them.

Saturday, 1/28

Prepare for worship tomorrow by not only reviewing the following devotional materials, but also by preparing what you can today to avoid rushing tomorrow.

Read Matthew 12:38-45 and Hebrews 1:1-14.

Meditate on the greatness of Jesus.

Pray for workers for the harvest field. Pray that God would raise up men and women, boys and girls to be His representatives to a lost world. Pray for church planters to come and join us in New England. Pray for folks at your school, in your neighborhood and work site to be turned from self-seekers to fellow workers in the Lord's harvest.



CHRIST the REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUTHORITY AT WORK

Matthew 9:35-10:20

Sermon notes from 1/22/06

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Text

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

¹ He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, preach this message: **The kingdom of heaven is near.**" ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; ¹⁰ take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

¹¹ "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

¹⁷ "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

Message

I. Jesus Sends His Disciples Out with His Authority.

II. Kingdom Authority Is for Kingdom Business.

III. The King Is Great Indeed.

Please consider the following, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Application

How do you view God's harvest? Why?

What are some of the things God commands for us regarding His harvest?

What is the basis for our assurance that the King's harvest will be brought in?

Taking Gathered Worship Home—Family and Individual Devotions

How do we as a community of faith live out the gospel truths we hear from God's word each Sunday morning in gathered worship? One of the means God uses to apply His word in our daily lives is the regular devotional reading and studying of His word as families and individuals. CTR wants to encourage you to dig into the gospel of Matthew throughout the week. Here is a guide for how you might do that.

Sunday, 1/22

Sunday is uniquely "the Lord's Day" as we celebrate His resurrection each week. We encourage you to use the bulk of this Sunday immersing yourself in God's Word.

Read the context for this morning's sermon: Matthew 8:1-10:42.

Discuss the worship service as a whole. How did the welcoming of new members connect with God's harvest in Matthew?

Sing one of the songs from the worship service today.

Pray for the new members. Pray for someone you would like to see come to worship with you. Pray through the upcoming week asking God to strengthen you to obey Him wherever you go.

Monday, 1/23

How can you participate in the Lord's harvest today? How are you continuing to pray that God would raise up more laborers to join you in it?

Read again the passage from yesterday's sermon: Matthew 9:35-10:20.

Meditate on the commissioning of God's servants, "Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority . . ." How is His authority displayed in your life and work?

Pray: "Lord of the Harvest, You have commanded us to pray and ask You to send out workers into Your field. Please Lord, send me. Show me how I can witness for You in my work place, neighborhood, and family. Raise up others to join with us in Your harvest that we may see many men and women, boys and girls brought into Your kingdom. We praise You in Christ's name."

Tuesday, 1/24

The call to gospel living causes division and difficulty. How are you following in the ways of our master that brings persecution and trial?

Read Matthew 10:21-42 and Micah 7:1-7.

Discuss what it costs for you to follow Jesus.

Sing the song "Great is the Lord"

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1, 3. Great is the Lord,
He is holy and just,
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord,
He is faithful and true,
By His mercy He proves He is love. | 2. Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord,
Now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord. Great is the Lord. |
|---|--|

Pray for those in our congregation and city who are new in their faith. Pray for strength for them as they struggle with following Christ and the animosity they may receive from friends and family.

Wednesday, 1/25

God alone is "holy, holy, holy." How will you live in light of His holiness today? How will you call others to live in light of it too?

Read Matthew 10:24-28 and Micah 7:8-13.

Meditate on the Lord's righteousness and how that very same light can be both blessing and judgment. Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both body and soul in hell."

Pray: "Holy Father, we worship You who alone is holy. We praise You for giving us the holiness of Christ, to make us as acceptable to You as He is. Help us to live as befits for Your beloved children."

Prayer of the Week

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, in whom You have revealed Yourself, our light and salvation. Baptized in Jordan's waters, Jesus took His place with sinners, and Your voice proclaimed Him Your beloved. Your Spirit anointed Him to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to restore sight to the blind, to free the oppressed. He lived among us in power and grace, touching broken lives with Your healing peace. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection. You secured Your people, the Church, as a holy Bride.