

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus

Title: Living the Kingdom Way

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Text: Matthew 5:38-48

Date: February 10, 2019



WARM-UP

Share one "takeaway" from the teaching this past weekend.

DISCUSSION

Matt suggested that there is a difference between living "Christianly" as a citizen of Canada and living as a citizen of God's kingdom in Canada.

- Do you view there being substantive differences between those two perspectives?
- If so, what might those differences be?

It has been the lament of some that our Canadian context has become "post-Christian"; that the influence Christianity once held in the "public square" has significantly waned, if not disappeared altogether. As people who are called to be citizens of the Kingdom of God:

- What are the negative or challenging impacts of this decline into a "post-Christian" reality?
- In what way might this decline be a positive development for the church?

Read Matthew 5:1-10

For each beatitude:

- Identify the Kingdom "posture" or ethic being upheld by Jesus.
- Is this posture aligned with, or in opposition to, the posture or ethic you observe in the world?
- If in opposition, what is the corresponding "posture" or ethic that you note in the world? (*ie. You might say that in opposition to meekness, the world embraces pride or self-promotion*)
- What are the practical challenges a person might face in trying to live out that kingdom ethic in the context of the kingdom of the world?
- Which beatitude do you find the most challenging to personally live out? Why?

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DISCUSSION

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10, Acts 2:44-47, Romans 12:3-5

- *"While relationship with Jesus is truly personal, it is by no means private, individualistic, and consumerist. It is public and interpersonal or communal." Exploring Ecclesiology by Harper and Metzger.*

Matt suggested that much of the sermon on the mount is meant to be lived out in community, not privately.

- Do you think Christians in our context primarily think about living out their faith from an individual perspective or a corporate perspective? What leads you to that conclusion?
- What kinds of things can Christians practically do to continue to move away from a private experience of faith to a more communal experience?

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)