

The Life Challenge

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

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Title: True

Speaker: Mike Olynyk

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WARM-UP

We are in a world that lives on the wider path, which can be confusing. Mike uses the analogy of wading through a flowing stream or river, and how it takes intentional effort not to travel the same way as the flow. What are some ways that Abbotsford Christians or churches as a whole have been/are being susceptible to the ways of the wider path crowd? Try to be specific. What are ways we as Christians can guard against this?

DISCUSSION

In 7:22-23, Jesus talks how there are people doing miraculous signs in Jesus name that won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What are your thoughts about this?

How can these people be able to do miracles in Jesus name? (After some discussion, reference 1 Cor 9:24-27; 1 John 2:19; Mark 13:13; John 6:60-70) What does this say about the important of finishing well and what does this say about the ability to wield supernatural power?

Jesus is clear that there are false teachers and false followers out there. How then is it possible to determine what is truth and what is false doctrine?

Without naming names, tell of discuss people trying to influence who produced good and bad fruit (Matt 7:16-20)? How did this affect their influence and ministry?

Mike mentions that we are purposed as a royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:5) and ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-18). Why is it so important to produce good fruit (Matt 7:16-20)?

DISCUSSION

Activity: In his conclusion, Mike encourages us to self-reflect on the various things that take up our time and energy and then to put that up against the church's vision statement: follow Jesus and make Him known in all we do. As a gift to each other, spend some quiet time to do this activity and start to make an inventory of all you do? Then put it up against the litmus test. Does it recharge the tanks to carry out your purpose? Does it carry out your purpose? Do the things on your list point to Jesus or point others to Jesus? Once you complete the exercise, share if you're able.