

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – October 2, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: Two Roads
Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Opening Questions: Pastor Brian opened this week's sermon by talking about times in our lives when someone has given us a speech that we needed to hear, even if the words were hard to hear. Can you think of a time that you have been given such a speech? What was the occasion? How did you respond?

Read: Matthew 7:13, 14

Discuss: What are some ways that you have seen the truth of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13, 14 evidenced in the culture in which we live today?

To enter a narrow gate in Jesus' day meant that a person often times needed to leave behind certain things in order to pass through. What are some of the things that we need to leave behind in order to follow Jesus?

How difficult is it to leave behind the things of this world in order to pursue Christ?

Read: Luke 14:25-35

Discuss: What do you suppose Jesus meant in verses 25-26?

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How does Luke 14:25-26 relate to Ephesians 5:25 and Colossians 3:19?

What is the bottom line of Jesus' teaching in Luke 14:25-35?

Why do you suppose that Luke wanted his readers to know that large crowds were following Jesus in Luke 14:25? Is there a correlation between the size of the crowd and the message that Christ gave?

How does Galatians 5:22-23 relate to the Sermon on the Mount?

Read: 2 Peter 1:3-8

Discuss: What are some of the godly character traits that the Apostle Peter tells us to pursue?

Read: Proverbs 14:12

Discuss: How have you seen this verse validated in your life's experience?

How does this passage relate to Matthew 7:7-8?

Read: Matthew 25:31-46

Discuss: How does Jesus teaching in Matthew 25 help us to better understand the two roads?

What lessons should all of us take from reading Matthew 25:31-46?

What are some of the markers of a citizen of a kingdom of God mentioned in this passage?

Read and Discuss: Pastor Brian mentioned that when we enter the narrow gate we leave behind worldliness, the way of the world, and we leave behind self. He also mentioned that we embrace the life of suffering. Read these two passages and comment about what these passages teach you about suffering for Christ: Matthew 5:11-12, 2 Timothy 3:12-13

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Read and Discuss: Pastor Brian read Dr. Bob Moorhead's "Fellowship of the Unashamed" at the conclusion of his message. As you close your time as a group, read through Dr. Moorhead's classic statement. Are you willing to make this type of commitment to God?

"I am a part of the fellowship of the Unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes.

And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear for "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . ." (Romans 1:16)."

Pray: As you pray this week, ask God to help each member of your group embrace the narrow path, no matter how difficult it is this side of heaven, recognizing that the rewards of a life with Christ far outweigh the costs here on earth.