

Small Group Questions | November 19th, 2017

Kingdom Values: Kingdom Commitment (Matthew 7:13-29)

Sermon Recap: Jesus gives us four stories (the gates, the trees, the declarations, and the builders), two outcomes, for one response. Travis said Jesus does not *push* his listeners to respond but *prepares* them to respond. Ultimately, Jesus wants us to ask ourselves, "am I committed to my kingdom or Jesus' kingdom? Jesus prepares our hearts to help us respond with surrender!

Hook: *These questions can help encourage conversation.*

1. Can you think of a time when you needed or asked for an immediate response (i.e. Travis' proposal story)? How would more time have affected the response?

Look: *Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.*

2. Jesus is the Gate (Jn 10:9). What are the differences between the two gates and paths in Mt 7:13-14? What does Jesus want us to walk away with from the gate analogy?
3. Jesus is the vine (Jn 15:5). What is Jesus comparing in this analogy in Mt 7:15-20? What are some truths we can distill from this comparison of trees?
4. Jesus is the King (Jn 12:15). What is the text showing us about our motivation and our will?
5. According to the passage, how do we know that Jesus is the foundation of our life? What is the constant that Jesus promises us?

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

6. Am I committed to my own kingdom or Jesus' kingdom? What does that actually look like?
7. How are you tempted to rationalize your lack of commitment to Jesus?
8. What else are you tempted to build your house on?
9. How can the beatitudes map a path to surrender in our daily lives?

Prayer/Verse: You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. – Matthew 7:16-17