

Group Resource

Sermon Notes – Sunday, March 24, 2013

Heaven Is

Message: “The Father Has Need of Us”

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

- I. Mark 11 records the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem during His passion week. As they are nearing Jerusalem, Jesus gives specific instruction to his disciples: (1) Go to the village ahead of you; (2) find a colt tied at the entrance of the city; and (3) untie the colt and bring it to Jesus
 - a. Jesus’ instructions raised difficulties about identity, devotion and endurance that we are also likely to experience as disciples of Christ.
 - b. (1) What is our identity? Can we face the challenges that come with affirming our identity as Christ followers.
 - i. The disciples were going into a town that was not favorable towards them. They had the potential to endure ridicule and shame because of their identity as disciples of Christ, but they had to decide their allegiance.
 - ii. Peter was an example of a disciple that failed this identity test three times. When asked whether he was a disciple of Christ, he denied his relationship with Christ in order to please men. (Luke 22:54-60)
 - c. (2) Are we focused and devoted to the mission?
 - i. The disciple’s mission was to go ahead of Jesus and find the colt that had never been ridden before. The disciples had to be focused to find the right colt which had been prepared in advance for this occasion. Devotion to God pays attention to the details of walking in God’s will.
 - d. (3) How will we respond when opposition results from obeying the Lord’s instructions? Will we immediately give up because there is pushback or will we persevere to see the mission of the Lord accomplished in the earth.
 - i. The Lord prepared the disciples for questions about why they were untying the colt for Jesus, but they were not to shudder at the pushback. The disciples only had to say what the Lord instructed them to say. (Matt 10:19)
- II. The colt was released into the hands of the disciples because it was a part of God’s ultimate plan. Despite any seeming opposition, God is able to make all things work according to His plan and purpose. The disciples answer was that “The Lord needs it”
 - a. Why did Jesus choose to orchestrate his plan this way? (1) It was a part of God bigger plan to fulfill the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9; (2) The time had come for Jesus to set into motion God’s plan of salvation through the cross (the Passover Lamb); and (3) Jesus was demonstrating that even in his death, he was in control over every situation and circumstance..
- III. So Jesus stayed on mission, even though he knows that ultimately his mission will be brutal, unfair, and unjust – it must be done for the glory of God and ultimately because “God needs him” We have to understand that heaven is our home, but the Lord needs us here on this earth to be His agents of transformation. That is our mission and focus.

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Let's Talk Notes – Week of March 24, 2013

Heaven Is

Message: "The Father Has Need of Us"

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

- 1) Tell us what brought you to Mars Hill Fellowship Church. What things are important for you to feel a part of a church family?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp? Were you challenged in any area of your personal walk with God?
- 3) Pastor Joseph mentioned that we sometimes struggle with our identity as Christians and whether to show allegiance to God or our desires. What are some of the challenges that come with being a Christ follower? How do you deal with those challenges? What areas do you struggle with?
- 4) Have you experienced opposition from obeying the Lord's instructions? How do you push past the opposition and stay on mission and focused?
- 5) If someone asked you why you are here on this earth, how would you answer them?