

Sermon Discussion

Peter LaRuffa • 04/21/2024

Icebreaker: What's the worst injury you've ever had?

Luke: See Jesus – Luke 22:47–51

Kingdom Amnesia

1. You need to remember Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world! (Luke 22:50–51)
 - a. There's nothing uniquely Christian about laying down your life for worldly causes. (Matt 26:52)
 - b. God hasn't called you to take down those that oppose Him. (Mat 26:53)
 - c. God has a plan. (Matt 26:54)
2. How you treat your enemies says more about you than how you treat your friends! (Luke 22:50–51) *See next page for Peter's Sub Points
3. The best demonstration of love for enemies is God's love for you. (Rom 5:6–8)

Sermon Discussion:

1. When is it hardest for you to align yourself with Jesus' Kingdom instead of the world's?
2. Pastor Peter said, "There's nothing uniquely Christian about laying down your life for worldly causes," "God hasn't called you to take down those that oppose Him," and "God has a plan." Which of these statements is most helpful for you to remember today? Why?
3. Pastor Peter said, "How you treat your enemies says more about you than how you treat your friends." What do you think of that statement? Do you agree or disagree? What do you think others would say about how you treat your enemies? Do you even treat your friends as well as Jesus calls you to treat your enemies?
4. What rationalizations do you often make for treating (or talking about) those you view as "enemies" harshly? What does God's Word say about those?
5. How should the truths of the gospel and the reality of your personal salvation story impact how you view "enemies" in your own life?
6. Review the "6 Ways To Align Yourself With Jesus' Kingdom Instead of the World." Which of those have you done? Which do you need to do?
7. What is one step you could take this week to love your "enemies" better than you have thus far?
8. How can we support and encourage each other as a community to live out the principles of loving our enemies and aligning ourselves with Jesus' kingdom in our daily lives?

Missionary Prayer Spotlight – Jason and Anna Reedy (Japan)

- The Reedy's are returning to the USA for a quick Home Assignment for May and June. Pray that they would be refreshed and for the planning that goes into this trip.
- They will be hosting the Missions Monday on May 13th. If you would like to meet them please encourage your group to go to that
- Pray for ongoing medical treatment as a result of Jason's stroke
- Pray for Jason's new responsibilities with CBI and for Anna and their two daughters as they work their way through language school

6 Ways To Align Yourself With Jesus' Kingdom Instead Of The World

1. You move towards your enemies when you'd rather move away.

Romans 12:14 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."

2. You strive for humble harmony instead of distant silence.

Romans 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."

3. You do what is good according to God's wisdom instead of your own.

Romans 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. **Never be wise in your own sight.**"

Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

4. You treat people honorably even if they dishonor you.

Romans 12:17 "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all."

1 Thessalonians 5:15 "See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone."

5. You strive for peace instead of waiting on someone to move first.

Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

6. You surrender and let God keep score.

Romans 12:19 "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"

Luke 6:32-36 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."