

6/16/24 Matthew 21:23-32 Father's day

This week has been a really exciting week. On Tuesday I got asked to go talk to the VFW auxiliary about our Feed the Kids program. They gave us a fantastic donation. It is great that we are getting out. Then on Wednesday we had our summer program so we gave the Feed the Kids out at the school. We helped 40 kids at the school with food/ meals for a week. We ended up making 60 sacks of food on top of that. So we had 40 we gave out and another 60 we made up. That is 1000 meals right there. 600 in just the 60 bags we had left and 400 in the others. 1,000 meals we gave out to the kids in our community, so that they can eat this summer. When you talk about it in sacks, it doesn't seem like it is that much. But when you break down how many meals they are really getting, it is huge. It is just crazy to think about it. I can see everyone doing the numbers in their heads like did we really do that much, and we did. Then on Thursday we had our two Bible studies. And I love our Bible studies. The two groups, even though it is the same people, the way we do it is very different. How and what we talk about are two very different things.

The first Bible study in the morning is more traditional. We are reading the bible and we are talking about what the scripture says and what it means to us. Then the night one we are watching the Chosen and we are learning about Jesus from that perspective. And it is great. Everybody is really into it. Everybody is really engaged in both of those groups. And we talk about a lot of the same things, and you wouldn't think that. In the morning we are reading Revelations. We are talking about the end. In the evening group, we are talking about Jesus's ministry. And this week it was starting his ministry so it is really more circular than anything else.

While we were talking about it in both of those groups on Thursday, the question got brought up: when we are doing something are we necessarily doing the right thing? And we think about that all the time. We think that just because we are doing something and we think that it is right, doesn't mean that it is right. Doesn't mean that we are doing the right thing for the right reason or are we simply doing the right thing because it is what we think and not necessarily somebody else.

One of the examples we used in our groups, we were talking about the War in Gaza right now. Both sides think they are right. Both sides think they are doing what is right for them. This war has been going on forever. This week we have had the highest kill rate in that war zone since October. If we think, this goes back, no matter what we call them, Israelites, Jews, Hamas, PAstinians. It is all the same people, fighting the same war for a very long time. And they both believe they are right. They both believe they are doing the right thing. They both believe they have the authority from God to do this, but can they? I am not saying one side is right and one side is wrong. I am simply saying they believe they were given the authority to do this.

It is easy for us to sit here and talk about this. It is easy for me to say this side is right or this side is wrong. Or maybe both are right or wrong because I am not there. I am not a part of it. I get the luxury of standing up here.

What other things have we done that we think we are helping that we are not. When we started the backpack program I was talking to another minister here in town and he told me I was doing the absolute wrong thing. He told me we absolutely should not be feeding the kids in this manner because we are creating an opportunity that is against their parents. If the parents wanted the food for these kids, then the parents would go out and get the food for these kids. We shouldn't be giving it to them because it is not right. And I see a lot of faces looking the way I was thinking. What do you mean that is not right. Not everybody has the opportunity to do these things. I don't know anybody that can go out today and get 1000 meals put together in an hour's time. Not by themselves.

But to him, we are doing the wrong thing. Another person I talked to last week told me these kids should be going out and getting jobs. That is the right thing for them to do, not accepting our handouts. I know one of those kids personally. And he is 5. No matter what I would not hire this kid to do anything. I mean I love him, and he is a great kid. But he is 5. Now I know the two people that told me that we are wrong believe in their hearts that they are doing the right thing. They want it put back on the parents. They believe it will make them stronger. I believe that we need to help whomever we can, whenever we can, however we can. So which one of us is right? I know I think I am. But we could both be right in this case. We could both be wrong in this case. I don't know. I know eventually I will find out. But right now I am going to believe that I am doing the right thing for the right reasons and I am helping out more people than if I wasn't.

It is like today's reading. We get told a lot of things. We get asked a lot of questions where if we answer one way, we know we are going to make one person happy. And if we answer another way we are going to make someone else happy. We are both right and wrong at the same time. When you have a toddler, you learn that very quickly. No matter what you are right and wrong at the same time. IN Jesus's parable, he talks about how the son goes and says he is going to do this. I am going to help my father and then he doesn't do it. And the second son says no I am not going to do that and then ends up going to help him. We talked about that in our Thursday night group.

Looking at the tax collectors, the prostitutes, going against God in so many ways in their lives. But then they turn around and change their minds. They become righteous. They start teaching. They started living his life. They start moving on. So they were both right and wrong. Or in this case, wrong and right. They found ways to move. They found ways to get closer to God. God has chosen all of us to be his children. He made us in his image. He has given us everything that we need to be right.

If we teach his love. If we teach his lessons. If we live a life where we are doing what is right because we think he would want that in a way that is realistic.

With the war going on, they are both right. They were both given that land. The Israelites believe they were given it from God. The Hamas believe it is their right and they have lived there for thousands of years. Their parents, their grandparents, they have all worked that land. God doesn't worry about the land. God worries about us. He worries about our souls. He worries about us ascending. He worries about us getting to heaven.

Our covenant, we know from last week we were told. He reminded us that we are not to kill one another. We learned in our ten commandments that we are not to kill. We are to love one another as he loves us. We are to worry about what happens in heaven. We are not to worry about what happens here on Earth.

Last week, I don't know if you know, but the Southern Baptist convention changed their bi-law to not allow women to do anything in their church now. They started kicking churches out from their faith because they are more worried about what happens here on Earth and how it makes them look as opposed to what God is teaching us. As opposed to what is happening in heaven. That we teach love. That we treat one another as God wants us to be treated. We don't worry about the earthly things. You will always be right. You will get to heaven. He knows what we have done. He knows that we have done bad things, whether we meant to or not. He knows that we try. He knows that we love each other. We love and we will do whatever we can for people, and that is what is important.