

PREACHING TO DEAD PEOPLE

Matthew 11.1-24

AN UNLIKELY MESSIAH

Matthew 11.1-15

John is the last of the Old Testament prophets, even though his story is in the New Testament, he prophesied *before* the actual New Covenant was initiated, which was at the cross of Christ. John, like most Jews, was expecting something a little different when picturing the coming Messiah. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He really is the One.

Matthew 11.16-24

Often times, we think that "if God were just do this or that," or "if He were to just make Himself known" in some irrefutable way, we would repent. But this is foolish thinking. Adam and Eve had a perfect paradise and sinned; the Hebrews saw the parting of the Red Sea and still rebelled; Jesus performed many miracles in towns that denied Him. We are far too optimistic about the condition of the human heart, and all of this continual rejection serves to show us how deep our need for God's saving grace really is.

The same sun that melts the snow, hardens the clay.

-Puritan Proverb

THE ONLY SOLUTION

What then, is the cause for those that are saved? What is the only hope for the human soul? Outside of the merciful and *initiating* love and grace of God, there is no hope for us, because we are dead in our sins. This is the wage we have earned (**Romans 6.23**).

1 John 4.19 // John 15.16

Regeneration: because we dead, we need to be "regenerated." This word is synonymous with the phrase "born again," and denotes not simply a change of behavior, but an actual rebirth on the inside; a re-creation, as J.I. Packer puts it.

John 3.1-12, 1.10-13

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EVANGELISM?

How Then, Should We Approach Evangelism?

- **Understand what You are up Against:** We are not battling flesh and blood (people). We are battling a kingdom of darkness that has blinded the eyes of people.
- **Believing in God's Power to Save:** This should cause us to put all of our hope not in physical weapons or tactics, but solely on spiritual ones. Namely, the Gospel, prayer, and our witness (lifestyle and fruit). Clearly, the three primary "means of grace" for the believer are also the three primary "means of grace" for the unregenerate.
- **Relentless Sharing of the Gospel:** 1 Peter 1.23 tells us that it is the "Word of God" that causes people to be "born again."
- **Prayer:** Since people are "born, not...of the will of man, but of God," we therefore pray earnestly and without ceasing.
- **Never Giving Up:** We also recognize that we are the ministers of reconciliation, sent to preach, pray, and be witnesses, never giving up, believing that God's grace can and will strive with man, as He did with us.

NOTES:

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read Matthew 11:1-24. What stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Since this week you will be going to our quarterly **GPS (Gospel Positioning Strategy) Meeting** in lieu of your **Community Group**, let's focus the rest of our attention this week on the **Two Year Bible Reading Plan**. At this point, we are roughly 10 weeks into the reading plan. What has been your favorite part of **Genesis, Exodus** and **Psalms** so far? How has the **Two Year Bible Reading Plan** helped you abide in the vine? Or if you haven't been doing the plan, what has been your favorite part in your recent reading, and how has it helped you stay rooted in the Gospel? How has being in the Good News compare now rather than before you started the plan? If you aren't doing the plan, what is your plan to be abiding in the Word every day?

On Sunday, Jobey talked about how God hardened Pharaoh's heart. He also talked about how as soon as God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt (**Exodus 15:22-17:7**) only days later they complained showing very grateful hearts. Which one best describes you; a hardened heart or an ungrateful heart towards God? If you struggle with one or both, how can you repent by "putting off the old self and putting on the new self" (**Ephesians 4:22-24**)? In other words, how can you line up your heart with God's will? _____

At the **Covenant Membership** class, Jobey passed out the "**Discipleship Plan**". If you haven't done so already, fill it out and reflect on your answers. If you haven't yet, or if you didn't attend the class, ask yourself the general question "What's my plan for growth in the Gospel?" _____

What are some of the names and characteristics of God that have stuck out to you in **Psalms**? List them out. _____

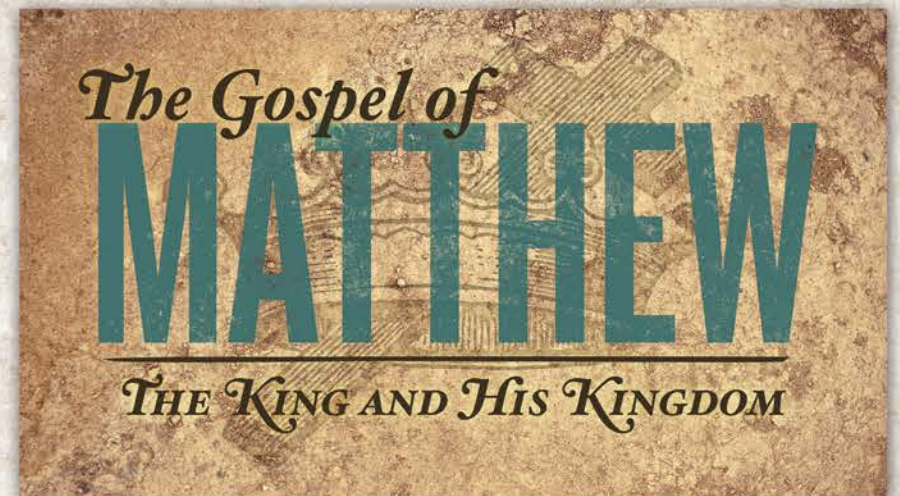
Read Exodus 15 and **Ephesians 1:7**. You are redeemed by the blood of Christ. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. God didn't just redeem His people from slavery but through the blood of Jesus purchased your freedom from the slavery of sin! Spend quiet time praying, reflecting and praising Him for your redemption and proclaiming this truth to yourself that you are free!



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

Pastor Jobey McGinty
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Equipping a Gospel-Centered Community in the Word of God,
To Live Out a Gospel-Centered Life Mission to the Glory of God.



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Matthew 11.1-24 // February 15, 2015

9AM & 11AM SERVICES

Life Mission Church Meets at Light & Life Christian School
1816 Oak Hill Drive, Escondido 92027

