

The Jesus Way – Attachments

What did you notice when you walked into the sanctuary today?

- The sanctuary is set up for a wedding!

What happens in this space on a wedding day? 2 lives covenant together in Christian marriage... with Christ at the center!

What happened in this space this morning? A child was baptized! A child of the covenant promises of God made visible through the waters of baptism...

What happened here 2 weeks ago, & will happen again next week? People joined our covenant community... our church... This family of believers!

What will happen in a few minutes at this table? We will partake together in this covenant meal, remembering what it cost to give us a place at the table!

Today we are going to talk about attachments! The people we join ourselves to, & the people who join themselves to us! & the difference that it makes!

We have 3 passages of Scripture for today that come from this past week's readings through the gospels - **Mark 6:1-6, Matthew 12:46-50, Matthew 13:10-16**. I want you to listen as I read for the attachments in these texts!

Mark 6:1-6 - Jesus visited his hometown with his disciples! There are 2 very different types of attachments seen in this passage...

- 1) That of Jesus' relatives and hometown residents. Who questioned... Who took offense at him... Who responded to him out of unbelief!
- 2) That of Jesus' disciples. Who He called & they dropped everything... They left their homes & followed Him... They were people of faith!

Vs. 4 - "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown & among his relatives & in his own household." What does this reveal about attachments?

We all have hometowns... relatives... households... The question is, are they attachments that instill a trust in, faithfulness to, & a willingness to follow Jesus?

Matthew 12:46-50 – Jesus is with His disciples speaking to the people about the kingdom of heaven, and his mom and brothers show up and want his attention. What did Jesus do in this moment? And why?

- 1) Jesus asks a question that redefines for His followers what family is...
 - Vs. 48 - "**Who is my mother and who are my brothers?**"

- 2) Jesus elevates people of faith, & Godly pursuit, to the status of family, above that of his biological bloodlines. **"Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."**

We all have people (& things) trying to pull for our attention... Are they drawing us closer to the will of God in our lives, or pulling us further away?

Jesus said "No" to His own mother and brothers because what He was engaged in, with these followers/disciples, was of greater importance... To the extent that he now called them His true family!

Matthew 13:10-16 – Jesus is teaching the crowds in parables... stories that only some people will understand... & Jesus' disciples ask Him why that is?

His answer, **"To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given."** Some will get it, others won't!

Some will see, hear, understand, & perceive the truth about Jesus & God's kingdom, & some will not... the question is which one are you, & which one represents those you attach yourself to? Are you aligned in your attachments?

The message of Christianity is available to the world to know... some receive it, understand it, & follow Jesus... Others don't get it, reject it, & turn away. This is true in our hometowns, with our relatives, with complete strangers, at work, at school, & even in worship services like this one...

What attachments will you/I choose to prioritize? Who will be our true family? What relationships & activities will we truly invest ourselves in?

If we are following the Jesus Way, then "these" relationships are what matters most! What we are doing right now together is what matters most! Everything else, and everyone else, ought to take a back seat...

We are either following Jesus (attaching ourselves to Him) and attaching ourselves to others with the same heart and pursuit, or we are allowing unbelievers and worldly things to pull us away from the Jesus Way!

This doesn't mean complete separation from the world, to live like monks... It means engaging the world, the people and the activities within it, in the way that Jesus did (with His disciples) to show the world a better way!

Let me demonstrate what this looks like, and the benefits of a life following the Jesus way... attached to Him, & attached to people in pursuit of Him!

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