

Week 5 - What to believe and next steps to take:

- A. **What to believe** – We are ministers of reconciliation, seeking to help those who do not know Jesus Christ to be able to follow Him as Lord and Savior. The harvest is plentiful and disciples are laborers in the harvest. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Matthew 9:35-38)
- B. **Next Steps** – Pray for those who are in your life that do not know the Lord or do not act like they know him. Begin to make efforts toward them in conversation, building bridges to the gospel.
1. Scripture memory:
 - a. Mark 1:15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
 - b. Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
 - c. Romans 10:9 “...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...”
 2. Scripture reading – Matthew 5-8
 - a. Ask this question when you read a chapter – What do I need to believe about God from reading this chapter?
 - b. If I believe this about God, what will I do or stop doing as a result of believing this?
 3. Meditation is lingering in contemplative listening, listening to what God has said in His word, resulting in specific obedience to God and His word. Spend time meditating on the verse that captures what you need to believe and how you will obey.
 4. Pray
 - a. Pray for the people in your life that need a disciple to be a blessing to them.
 - b. Begin to pray for the person/s you will disciple in the next year.
 - c. Continue to journal a couple prayers requests you would like to be praying this week.
 5. Some addition assignments:
 - a. Begin to think about a plan for becoming first generation disciple maker at FBCGT.
 - b. Make a list of questions you would like to ask about evangelism next Wednesday night.
 - c. Make a top ten list or a neighborhood map to help you pray for those in your life with whom you would like to share the gospel.
 - d. Write out your own personal story of salvation. You can use these three divisions for guiding your story – My life before Christ, My decision to follow Jesus, My life since deciding to follow Jesus (with some current story on what difference it is making now).
 - e. Begin to pray about the Bible distribution opportunity. More to come next week.

The Sermon on the Mount was delivered by Jesus up on a hillside to his disciples while the crowds looked on and listened in. Jesus had been proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven had come and now his sermon described the life of a disciple in the kingdom of heaven. Although the sermon was primarily addressed to Jesus' disciples, it was meant to be good news for all who would listen and the crowds were listening. They all hung on every word. They were astounded and amazed. At the end of the sermon, Matthew tells us that the crowds were astonished at Jesus' teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, real authority, not like that of their scribes. Matthew 7:28 might be one of the saddest verses in all of Scripture. The crowds listened but they really didn't hear what Jesus was saying. The crowds reacted with amazement. They were only amazed. They were only astounded. It should have been so much more. The response should have been so different. Jesus told them that unless their righteousness exceeded the Pharisees, they would never enter the kingdom of heaven. He said that if they got angry with their brother it was like murder and that they would be in danger of hell. He said that anyone who looked upon a woman with lust had committed adultery in his heart. If a man's right hand caused him to sin, he was to cut it off. He told them to love those who hated them. He told them to be perfect, like God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, proclaimed a message that demanded so much more than affirmation, appreciation or amazement. His message demanded repentance, faith, surrender to the King. They should have fallen on their faces and cried out for mercy because none of them measured up. None of them was good enough to enter the kingdom. None of them could stand before God and plead innocent. They were all guilty and none perfect. They should have been broken over their sin. But instead they were just amazed. As you work through the Sermon on the Mount this week, digging in and seeing what Jesus was saying, don't simply be amazed at Jesus' words. Sure be amazed and astounded at Jesus and all He said but there must be more. Make sure that you rightly respond to the truth of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount. Strive for a response that would be wholly appropriate, the response of disciples, the response of genuine followers of Jesus.