

Growth Group Questions

Epiphany 2, January 15, 2023

Growing Together

I introduced the sermon by talking about some of the descriptions the prophets used for the Messiah. Shepherd, king, prophet, servant. As a group, discuss your favorite “picture” of Jesus.

Into the Word – Isaiah 49:1-6

1. Did you hear in worship last week what “islands” refers to in Old Testament prophecy?¹ Who does God intend these verses to be heard by, and how does that impact you?
2. This text shows a figurative conversation between Jesus and the Father. Walk through the text verse by verse and see how each verse describes Jesus perfectly.

Into the Word – Colossians 2:6-15

1. Verse 9 is my favorite verse to use when sharing who Jesus is with a young believer or an unbeliever. What does it mean that “all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form”?
2. All Jewish male babies were circumcised on their 8th day of age, symbolically bringing them from outside Abraham’s covenant into that covenant. Define the terms here to help understand Jesus’ picture:
 - (v. 13) “uncircumcision **of your flesh**”
 - (v. 11) “**when** you were circumcised **by Christ**”
 - (v. 11) “In him you were also circumcised with a **circumcision not performed by human hands.**”

¹ You found the answer! The “islands” were islands off the coast of the Mediterranean. It’s a reference to non-Jewish peoples...Gentiles...us!

Into the Word – Matthew 1:18-25

1. Explain John the Baptist’s logic. “A man who comes after me surpassed me because he was before me.”
2. We learn in this account that two of Jesus’ disciples were first disciples of John the Baptist. Andrew is named outright in verse 40. The other is usually thought to be John, though he isn’t named in the text. Lange’s commentary on John says this.
*Not until this point does John mention a name, and here he mentions only the one. It seems to be a habit with John to append data such as names of persons and of places at the end of his narratives. **Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two that heard John and followed him.** Involuntarily we ask: “Who was the other of the two? and why is he not also named here?” We know the answer: “The other is John, the Apostle, himself, who never mentions his own name in his Gospel nor the name of any of his relatives.”*
3. Once Andrew has seen Jesus, what is the first thing he does? What do we learn from this for our Christian lives?
4. Believers often fear they aren’t prepared to share our Savior. We need to train, to study, to come up with the right words or outline. Describe Andrew’s evangelism tactic and discuss. What makes it a strong technique? How well would it work today?²

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, we thank you that we have seen you too. You are the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. Give us opportunities to invite others to see you too. Amen.

² Another answer too important to miss. Andrew’s plan is just to bring people to see Jesus! It’s simple and exactly the best way to share our faith still.