



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the week of July 26, 2020

"Just One More"

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Theme/concept

We are really good at sharing good news. It's the new cellphone we show off to our friends, the new Netflix show that we get all our family watching, or maybe the news we share on social media. As people who are becoming fully alive in Christ our lives will be more and more marked by joyfully sharing the good news of what Jesus has done for us. That can leave us with a startling question: Why might we not be joyfully revealing the good news? For the early followers of Jesus this news was too true, and too true not to share with others. Their deep motivation led them to move forward in sharing the gospel even through rejection and uncertainty. What keeps us from sharing the good news? Why does rejection stop us in our tracks? Maybe we need to ask if we believe the good news is really true and truly good.

Application

Step back and ask, "Do I believe the good news is really true and truly good?"

Icebreaker (for groups)

What was the last piece of good news that you couldn't wait to share? How did it feel to tell others?

Reflections on the sermon

Looking back at Sunday's message, what point stood out to you, or gave you a new way of thinking about the Scripture?

Scripture

Matthew 22:1-8 (New International Version)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

⁵"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.'

Luke 2:10-15 (NIV)

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Breaking down the Scripture

1. In Matthew 22:1-2, what metaphor does Jesus use for the kingdom of heaven? Why do you think he chose to describe it that way?
2. In Jesus' parable, who are the servants? Who are the invited guests?
3. In Matthew 22:3 and 22:5-6, how do the guests respond to the invitation delivered by the servants? What parallel responses to God's invitation do you see in our culture?
4. How does the king's reaction in verse 7 differ from that in verse 5? What do you think prompted the change?
5. In Luke 2:11, we see three great Christian claims about Jesus: he is Savior, Messiah, and Lord. Does one of these resonate more strongly with you than the others? Why?

6. In Luke 2:13, the angel is joined by “a great company of the heavenly host”—a multitude of angels, as numerous as an army. How might that have affected the shepherds’ reaction to the news?

Going deeper

1. How would you define the good news (i.e., the gospel)? How would you word it in a way that would make sense to a non-believer, or to someone completely unfamiliar with the biblical story?
2. Why do you think some people don’t consider the gospel to be good news?
3. What gives you confidence that the good news is true?
4. How have you seen the truth of the gospel revealed in your life or the lives of others?
5. As followers of Jesus, who proclaims, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” we are called to be truth-tellers. This means we are to speak in a way that does not exaggerate, minimize, deny,

rationalize, or manage the truth; and to be discerning in the way we consume and disseminate information. How might our failure to be truth-tellers in other areas affect our witness to the truth of the gospel?

6. Matthew 22:1-8 implies that we are likely to encounter rejection as we share the good news. How might we view such rejection?

7. Trinity's Vision Frame says that a person fully alive in Christ "joyfully reveals the good news." In addition to talking about the gospel, what are some ways that we can reveal the good news?

8. What, if anything, keeps you from joyfully revealing the good news? How might you remove any obstacles that are getting in the way of doing so?

Closing prayer

Please pray:

- That the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of people to receive the good news of Jesus, the Savior, Messiah, and Lord
- That we will be winsome witnesses to the gospel
- That we will approach the task with joy and confidence rather than with fear
- That our lives, and not only our words, will reveal the good news
- That God will make us aware of someone who especially needs to hear the good news this week