

Jesus followers in a new era – Vision Sunday

Sunday 29th January 2017

Matthew 7-8 (Part 4)

Church mission: “To reach out to everyone and see them transformed into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.”

1. We understand that the only gateway to life is narrow

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is by the way they act.” Matthew 7:15-16

Who are you praying for that they may receive this understanding? _____

“Keep on asking and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

2. We rise to the challenge of cost

“Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”

²⁰ *But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”*

²¹ *Another of his disciples said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”*

²² *But Jesus told him, “Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead.”* Matthew 8:19-22

In what area do I need to rise to this challenge? _____

3. We move forward in confidence because Jesus has the power

- Health

“Jesus reached out and touched him. ‘I am willing’ he said. ‘Be healed!’ And instantly the leprosy disappeared.” Matthew 7:3

“Then Jesus said to the Roman officer ‘God back home’...And the young servant was healed that same hour.” Matthew 8:13

- Weather

“Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. The disciples were amazed.

‘Who is this man?’ they asked. ‘Even the winds and waves obey him!’” Matthew 8:26-27

- Demons

“When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake...two men who were possessed by demons met him...‘Alright go!’ Jesus commanded them. So the demons came out of the men...” Matthew 8:28 & 32

- Security

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock...it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.” Matthew 7:24-25

Where is your confidence placed? _____