

## THE BIG IDEA: Kingdom citizens look different because they are different.

### The Take-Off

If we think back to the very beginning of our Win/When series, you'll remember that I mentioned the phrase IDENTITY FUELS ACTIVITY a lot.

We talked about how tempting it can be to read the Sermon on the Mount like a 3 chapter checklist of all the things that "good" followers of Jesus do.

But this is a sermon from Jesus about how citizens of the Kingdom live BECAUSE they're citizens, not how non-citizens live so they can become citizens.

Activity can't define our identity. It has to be the other way around. Who we are determines what we do.

Now, here we are at the end of the greatest sermon ever preached and Jesus is coming back full circle, and like all good preachers, He's not content to just inspire us.

He actually wants us to do something as a result of the tea He's been spilling.

So the end of the Sermon on the Mount is going to be very direct, very action oriented.

Jesus is basically going to say, "If you're following Me - if you're a Kingdom citizen - people will see it in how you live because your lives will be marked in ways that theirs aren't."

So, this morning, let's talk about 4 things that are in the lives of Kingdom citizens, or 4 markers that let us know we're still on the right path.

### 1. There is a code

- a. The first mark in the life of a Jesus follower is that **there's a code**
- b. You may have heard of it as "The Golden Rule" - do to others what you'd like them to do to you
- c. This isn't a way to be saved - it's a way to live when you're saved
- d. Many have a different rule - do to others whatever you want to do
- e. But Jesus changes us from being inward focused to outward focused
- f. Things to think about:
  - How does this marker describe you? Not at all or pretty accurately?
  - How would the world change if Jesus followers upheld this code daily?
  - How would your relationships change if every time you were going to say or do something, you stopped and asked yourself if what you were going to say or do is something that YOU'D want said or done to you?
- g. As far as codes go, this is revolutionary.
- h. But Jesus was a revolutionary - and on the cross He proved it.
- i. This one code sums up everything - it's a big deal.

### 2. There is a cost

- a. For the remaining markers, Jesus is going to present 2 options for each one.
- b. He's going to talk about 2 roads, 2 trees, and 2 groups.
- c. Some of you don't like to make decisions because you have FOMO - the Fear Of Missing Out
- d. Jesus doesn't leave us the option of opting out. That means that one of the two in each case will apply.
- e. Being the master communicator, Jesus is not going to let us "only hear" what He says
- f. He is going to make a choose
- g. First, He speaks about a broad and narrow way and a broad and narrow gate
- h. **Matthew 7:14** says that the right choice is the costly one: the gate is narrow and the road is difficult
- i. **John 10:9** / Jesus is THE gate - there is only ONE way
- j. The word for "difficult" in the Greek is "thlibo"
  - It means "to oppress, afflict, cause to suffer hardship"
  - **2 Thess. 1:6** / persecute
  - **Mark 3:9** / crush
  - **2 Cor. 1:6, 4:8** / weighed down with troubles, pressed
- k. The second mark? **There is a cost.**
- l. COMMON SENSE OBSERVATION: A faith that cost Jesus everything will never cost me nothing.

### 3. There is a change

- a. The third mark? **Change**.
- b. Look at what Jesus says in **Matthew 7:15-20**.
- c. He reminds us of the connection between roots and fruit so that we'll understand the connection between who we are and what we do.
- d. Fruit is what we do - it's how people know whether we're a "good" tree or a "bad" tree
- e. Think of like this: every tree could look similar, but if I pull an apple off a tree, I would never assume it was an orange tree.
- f. Apple trees produce apples. Period. End of story. Stop.
- g. Jesus sums it up in **verse 20**: in the same way, we're identified by our actions.
- h. If the actions in your life are the same as they were before Jesus, then this will be a sobering, and potentially life-saving, truth. You may not be on the path you think you're on.
- i. We don't add Jesus to whatever we want to do so that we can do what we want without fear of punishment.
- j. Jesus actually transplants us into new soil and our roots produce new fruit.
- k. Fruit that looks like Jesus. Fruit that looks like **Galatians 5:22-23**.

### 4. There is a communion

- a. Finally, for those who try to produce good fruit without being changed first, Jesus offers a fourth marker
- b. He talks about judgement day and that one group will point to what they've done
- c. Jesus will say to that group, "I never knew you."
- d. I've always scratched my head on this one, because the things they did are mind-blowing: prophesied, cast out demons, did many miracles."
- e. No doubt, that's more than some of us, and yet, Jesus rejects them. Why?
- f. Because following Jesus begins and ends with knowing Jesus.
- g. Not knowing about Him or working for Him - knowing Him.
- h. The relationship is the root; the activity is the fruit.
- i. The Greek word for "know" is an intimate word - often used to speak of sexual relations between a husband and a wife.
- j. Jesus is saying that intimacy with Him will produce fruit.
- k. Roots first; fruit second. It all happens in communion.
- l. That's the fourth marker: **communion**.

#### The Landing

I'm pretty sure you can see that Kingdom citizens look different.

But what I really want you to see is the **Kingdom citizens look different because they ARE different!**

When we walk a path marked by a code, a cost, a change, and a communion with Jesus, we look different.

Do you? Is your life marked by those? If not, let's end today by making sure that you're on the right path so that you, too, can be marked as His follower.

Let's pray.