

Sunday, November 29, 2020 - "Advent 2020 - Week 1: Hope" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Leviticus 20:7, Proverbs 13:12, Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 24:36. Matthew 24:44, Isaiah 40:31

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Advent is a season of sanctification, consecration, preparation
 - Consecration = to make or declare sacred, to set apart or dedicate to the worship of God
 - Preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ...it takes daily intentionality
- This week..HOPE (Proverbs 13:12)
 - Hoping for something longer than expected → heartache
 - The more we want it and the longer we wait the more heartache we feel
- Matthew 25:1-13 - part of Olivet discourse (4 parables) that teach us how to live between the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ
- Cultural context
 - 10 virgins are the bridesmaids
 - They would light the way and build excitement as the groom went to get his bride to bring to the banquet
 - The story is not about marriage but about preparing for the 2nd coming of Jesus
 - Matthew 25:1a - "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like..."
 - We live in this time, the now but not yet
 - WATCH THEREFORE
 - We are called to follow this command in Advent
 - What does it mean to watch?
 - Be prepared
 - We are called to live as if Jesus could return today or like he could come in the next generation
 - All of the oil we need no matter how long it takes
 - Holy Spirit
 - The presence of God
 - Advent is a time to fill the lamp of our soul, to watch and prepare
- Movement of God always starts with an invitation
 - Psalm 139 prayer of David...search me, know me, any grievous way in me?
 - Turn away from anything that is competing with God in your heart and life
- Practical ways to practice Advent
 - Advent guide (download or pick up at front entrance of church)
 - Women's Advent event (Friday Dec 4th - online)
 - Chapel weekdays (7-8am online)
 - Read Olivet discourse - Matthe 24 & 25
 - Talk about Advent (family, c- group, etc.)
- Matthew 24:44, Isaiah 40:31

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you practiced Advent in the past? What did God show you?
2. What does it look like for you to "watch therefore" during this season of Advent?
3. How is God asking you to "fill the lamp" of your soul this Advent?
4. What does it mean to you to be prepared for the second coming of Jesus? What does it mean for you today?
5. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Psalm 126 Tues: Psalm 127 Wed: Psalm 128 Thurs: Psalm 129 Fri: Psalm 130

Songs from the weekend: [Holy Spirit - *Bryan and Katie Torwalt*] - [Do It Again - Elevation Worship] - [Made A Way - Travis Greene] - [O Praise the Name - Hillsong Worship]