



# The Kingdom of God Advances



## The Path of Following Jesus

Sunday, January 15/23 --- Matthew 8:18-27

### **The Path of Presumption or Pride (vs. 18-20)**

- <sup>18</sup> When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he told his followers to go to the other side of the lake.
- <sup>19</sup> Then a teacher of the law came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, I will follow you any place you go."
- <sup>20</sup> Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes to live in, and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest his head."

### **The Path of Procrastination or Lesser Priorities (vs. 21-22)**

- <sup>21</sup> Another man, one of Jesus' followers, said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."
- <sup>22</sup> But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the people who are dead bury their own dead."

### **The Path of Presence & Power (vs. 23-27)**

- <sup>23</sup> Jesus got into a boat, and his followers went with him.
- <sup>24</sup> A great storm arose on the lake so that waves covered the boat, but Jesus was sleeping.
- <sup>25</sup> His followers went to him and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We will drown!"
- <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "Why are you afraid? You don't have enough faith."
- Then Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, and it became completely calm.
- <sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and said, "What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



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## **Discussion Questions:**

*In what ways has presumption or pride impacted your walk with Christ?*

*How could your love of family endanger your worthiness of God (Matthew 10:37)?*

*What about your work? Hobbies?*

*What do you tend to trust in first when you are afraid?*

*The disciples asked: "What kind of man is this?" How would you respond?*

*How is your response evident in your life this past week?*

## **Application:**

### **LifePath Journey (LPJ) Winter 2023** - *The Kingdom of God Advances* (Matt 8-10)

*Ways to be involved!*

- **Attend/Watch our *The Kingdom of God Advances* series (Sunday Services)**
- **Make use of an ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal: Matthew**  
Creatively engage with God's Word as we go on our LifePath Journey together this Fall! Order one [HERE](#). Cost: \$10
- **Attend Come to the Table - A Weekly Gathering of our Church Family, Wednesdays, January 18 – March 29, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (seating till 7:00pm).** Cost: \$7/person; \$25/family (max 5)/\$5.  
**Register for January 18: [Come to the Table Registration January 18](#).** Registration deadline is Sunday, January 15.
- **Join a Discussion Group (DG) - Tuesday or Thursday, 7:00pm. Initial meetings will be Tuesday, January 17 and Thursday, January 19 at the church.** Our DGs meet during our LifePath Journey and are made up of 3-6 people (max 8) who come to each meeting prepared to:
  - Share an insight gained from reading Matthew
  - Participate in the sermon discussion question
  - Debrief on their experience of our weekly LPJ Challenge
  - Develop Christ-Focused friendships

DGs are led by a HOST who *leads by example and helps the conversation stay focused on our experiences with Christ.*

  - **Wednesday Night Discussion Groups** - Begin immediately after the meal (7 pm – 8:30 pm). *Two ways of participating: Solid Grounds (Front Foyer) for drop-in attendance or Fireside Room (room off auditorium) for regular attendance (same DG each week). At either location, you are welcome at any table that has a free chair.*
- **Participate with your LifeGroup** - Find all our LPJ Resources on RightNow Media.
- **Follow along alone, with some friends, or with your family.**