

Sermon Study Guide – October 21st, 2018:

Today's Focus – "God Wants a Church that is Militant"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ What kinds of things come to mind when you hear the word "militant"? What things would you describe as "militant"?
- ◆ Why is it hard to picture church as something that is "militant"? In what ways could it be very bad for a church to be militant? Are there ways this could actually be a good thing?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 16:21-26

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." ²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. How does our sermon text support the idea that God wants a “militant church”? And what would Jesus have meant by militancy?
2. In short, *why* does God want us to “bear our crosses” and engage in a struggle as a militant church?
3. How does the devil use the “peaceful” things in life to distract us from the more important matters of the soul?
4. Even though he died, what was the “end” of Christ’s struggle? How do we gain the same ending, no matter what we suffer?
5. Even if it’s hard, why should we embrace the fight of faith?
(hint: in the sermon, we’ll give three answers to this)

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ Some Christian churches distinctly claim that you can have “your best life now”. How can this phrase be understood correctly? (i.e. in a godly way) As we think about what Jesus says today, how can this phrase be abused? (which, unfortunately, is how many churches often use it!)
- ◆ Today we talked about how the devil tempts us in ways that are not obvious... How are you tempted to think you’re right in your beliefs, but you actually have the wrong idea of church? How can you fix this?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Jer. 15:15-21, Ro. 5:1-8

Tuesday: Luke 9:21-62

Wednesday: Isaiah 40

Thursday: Psalm 22-23

Friday: Romans 8

Saturday: *review* Matt. 16:21-26