

Jan 14 2018

Sermon Title: Agendas

Passage: Matthew 21:1-11

Who are the authority figures in your life, the people you answer to? How much power do they have? The message talked about Jesus being king, which is a foreign concept for Canadians, since there's no person in our lives whose authority extends to the point of allowing us to live or die. Talk about the implications of Jesus being King for your life.

The crowds in our passage (Matt. 21:1-11) have good, biblical, godly hopes and desires (justice, peace, God's man on throne, etc.), yet Jesus won't fulfill them in the way they're hoping or expecting. Have you experienced strong desires for good and godly things that haven't been met? Consider sharing that experience with others. What did you learn from it? How did God provide for you? What unanswered questions or prayers do you still have? Have you come to peace about this, and if so, how? If not, how can your brothers and sisters in Christ help you with this?

Submitting our good desires and agendas to God will mean that we will need to practice dependence. We not only trust him, but we rely on him. What are the ways we can practice dependence?

Talking about God's will can be confusing, since there are three different ways the term can be used: 1) What God Desires, 2) What God Allows, and 3) What God Does or Doesn't Do. For example: God desires that we be generous, but he allows us to be greedy, and he may or may not intervene to change our greedy behaviour. A crisis of faith can occur when we encounter situations in which God allows something to happen (#2) which is not something that pleases him (#1), yet he doesn't do something to change it (#3). What has helped you when you've had this experience (death of loved one, unexpected diagnosis, loss of job, unfulfilled dreams for your life, etc.)? How have you dealt with "God's will" and your will not lining up?