

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Part 5 in the Series "Follow"

What do you remember from the message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Can you think of a time you were following someone or something and the Holy Spirit prompted you to stop following that person or thing?

Read the following passage:

### Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- What does being made in the image of God mean for how you view yourself and others?

Answer: We are set apart from all other creatures as God's representatives.

- How does knowing this truth point us to who we should follow?
- How should knowing who we follow affect how we treat others?

Answer: God created all people in His image- which means we are all created by God with the right to be treated with dignity. We should honor our fellow humans with the respect we all deserve by being created in God's image.

- Why do you think God created us with a need to follow, when it risks us following something we shouldn't?

When a person makes the decision to follow Jesus they are confronted with their own unrighteousness, their own immorality and their own injustices. However, when they turn

towards Jesus and declare their dependence upon Him, a seed is planted in them that begins to transform them from the inside out. It starts off small, but if they continue to abide in Christ, that seed continues to grow and they are better able to embody that reflection of Christ- the image of God over time.

A main message of Jesus throughout his ministry was that 'the Kingdom of God is at hand' and He presents the Kingdom of God using the following parable:

<sup>30</sup> And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."  
Mark 4:30-32

Ever seen a mustard tree? Google it- pretty massive!

- Knowing now how large and grand a mustard tree is, what does that say about how the Kingdom of God spreads throughout the earth over time?

Answer: starts off small becomes massive, interconnected branches, firmly rooted in the ground. Started off with a small number of people, but grows exponentially.

- What roles do Christians play in living out and growing God's Kingdom?

Answer:

- treat all people as God's image bearers,
- spread the good news of the gospel
- live as Jesus did

Martin Luther King, Jr. said the following:

"Evil may so shape events that Caesar will occupy a palace and Christ a cross, but that same Christ will rise up and split history into A.D and B.C, so that even the life of Caesar must be dated by his name. Yes, 'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.'"

Christ ultimately prevails, and therefore so does God's Kingdom.

- Should Christians play an active or a passive role in 'bending the moral universe towards justice'?
- How does treating all humans with the dignity and honor by which they are created 'bend the moral universe towards justice'?

- How does trying to live out God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven help 'bend the moral universe towards justice'?