

WELCOME TO DRIVE-IN CHURCH AT SOUTHLAND!

Thanks for joining us! June 27th, 2021

Note: Song lyrics on the back pages! Tune into 88.3fm for audio.

Updates & Announcements:

1. Current Health Order Update:

- The doors to the church are now open once more during the week from 8:30 – 4:30 Monday to Friday.
- Please feel free to come in to use the prayer room or to drop off or pick something up.
- Staff are on hand if you would like to speak to someone.
- And the big news? During this service, you can now use the church washrooms that are immediately inside the Retreat Centre doors.

2. Day Camps are being planned here at Southland for

- July 27-28 Grades 3-4
- July 29-30 Grades 5-6
- Aug 4 Grades 7-8
- Volunteers are needed!!
- Check the website for more details and to sign up your students and/or volunteer.
- All students are put on a waiting list until we can confirm availability according to provincial health orders and number of volunteers.

3. Membership:

- If you have completed the steps for membership and are interested in becoming a member, please contact the church office.
- A membership service is coming up in September!
- If you are interested in becoming a member.... what it means and what it takes, you can visit our website!

The Book of Matthew Part 3:

The story of history is one of beginnings and endings and beginnings again and so on. And that's exactly where we find ourselves today in our journey through the Book of Matthew at Chapter 3 and in the first sentence we are introduced to an important figure who already has a nickname.

A. **Herald of the Coming Kingdom:** *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea.”* Matthew 3:1 ESV

⁵ *In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah,^[a] of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*
Luke 1

¹¹ *And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife*

Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”
Luke 1

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.” Luke 1

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Matthew 3

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3

- John’s whole life would be about *fulfilling another agenda*. He had taken a vow to *let go* of a normal life. In the midst of all of that *letting go*, God asks him one more thing. And day after day, John the Baptist did what he was called to do by the banks of the Jordan River preaching repentance and baptizing those who confessed their sin
- If God has brought you, finally, to the place that you’re ready to change and, finally, to get it right, don’t say no! Instead *Bear fruit in keeping with your repentance*. Another Bible translation of that same verse says “*Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God..*”*NLT* We might say it like ‘the proof is in the pudding”
- True repentance is recognized in a changed life - to the bearing of a different kind of fruit. It leads to love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
Galatians 5:22-23

B. Herald of the King! *“He saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”* John 1:29

¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son,^[d] with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3

Reflection #1: What about you? One of the questions I want to ask us to consider is what is it that you need to let go of?

- This marks an end and a beginning. For a brief time the ministries of Jesus and John the Baptist continued side by side. Slowly at first and then more obviously, people stopped coming to John. They were all going to Jesus.

²⁶ *And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him.”* ²⁷ *John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.* John 3

- At a wedding in John's day, there was a special person who was known as the friend of the groom. They had a technical term for it -- the shospen, friend of the groom. He was in charge of the wedding arrangements, sending out the invitations and accompanying the groom.
- This is the picture that John paints. "That's my joy. I got to send out the invitations. I served the groom. He is my friend. Now he's come, and I have heard his voice." Jesus is beginning the process of claiming his bride. My joy is complete. Every time another person goes to Jesus, it is the bride with the groom, and that completes my joy.
- The last word on the subject from John says it all. He says about Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease."
- Today we are faced with the same choice. Jesus figuratively comes to us and he says Follow me. Turn from your selfish agenda. Take on my plan for your life and you will live the life you were made to live. That's what being a disciple and making disciples is all about.

Reflection #2: Will we allow Jesus to become greater and ourselves to become less?

C. Tempting The King: *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.”* Matthew 4:1-2

- He tempts Jesus to be a different kind of savior. Be a different kind of Messiah than God's plan required.

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ *But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”* ⁵ *Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple* ⁶ *and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”* ⁷ *Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”* ⁸ *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.* ⁹ *And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”* ¹⁰ *Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”* Matthew 4

- Temptation #1:

- a) Use God-given abilities for selfish reasons.
- b) Not wait on God for His provision of needs.

But Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

- Man hungers for so much more. He hungers for a relationship with God. Listen to God! Listen to God's voice instead of listening to others.
- Temptation #2:
 - a) To abuse God's grace.
 - b) To draw attention to yourself - to impress, to show off.

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- God's plan was that Jesus Christ would come to earth and get glory by dying on a cross, not jumping off a building. One of them is to show off. The other is to sacrifice. One of them is spectacular. The other is sacrificial. We must practice humility.
- *"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* Matthew 3:11
- Temptation #3: Worship anyone or anything other than God.

Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."" 4:10

- Jesus simply says, You should only worship God."

Reflection #3: Do you worship the things of this world more than God? You've got to decide.

- In all three temptations, Jesus answers by quoting scripture. He's modeling for us how to resist temptation. You don't resist temptation with your own opinions. You resist it by knowing what the Bible says. The devil is not afraid of your opinion. But he does fear the word of God because it's the truth. So memorize scripture.

"When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left Him until the next opportunity came" Luke 4:13

Reflection: Here are the four reflection questions.

1. What do I need to let go of before the King? Make a list and then truly confess and repent!
2. Will I allow Jesus to become greater and myself to become less? Be a shospen?
3. Will I make God the primary concern and worship of my life? Lord, I'm living for Your Kingdom, Your purpose for my life! Does it show? Would others agree?
4. Will I dedicate my God-given abilities to serve God and making disciples rather than serving myself? How might I practically serve someone this week and encourage their walk with the Lord?

SONG LYRICS:

GREAT THINGS

Come let us worship our King
Come let us bow at His feet
He has done great things
See what our Savior has done
See how His love overcomes
He has done great things
He has done great things

Chorus:

*Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
Oh God, You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive
Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high
Oh God, You have done great things*

You've been faithful through every storm
You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things
And I know You will do it again
For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"
You will do great things
God, You do great things

Hallelujah God, above it all
Hallelujah God, unshakable
Hallelujah, You have done great things
Hallelujah God, above it all
Hallelujah God, unshakable
Hallelujah, You have done great things
You've done great things

1000 REASONS (Bless the Lord oh my soul)

Chorus:

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

When the evening comes

You're rich in love

And You're slow to anger

Your name is great

And Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness

I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find

And on that day

When my strength is failing

The end draws near

And my time has come

Still my soul will

Sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years

And then forevermore

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

*What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

*What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silenced the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever, God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

*What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*