

6th Week of Fall Series:

“The Way(s) of The World/THE WAY of Jesus”

“Worship Worthy?”

GETTING STARTED

- How do you react & respond to unexpected (or even undeserved) gifts?
- Why, do you believe, human beings are so quick to either elevate or tear-down those who are in leadership positions?
- Discuss the phrase, “Things are to be used, people are to be loved, GOD is to be worshipped. The problem is that we use people, worship things, & only (pretend) to love GOD.”

Exodus 32:1-14

- Why, do you think, the people weren’t more patient about waiting on Moses &, in turn, why, do you believe, Aaron thought a helpful solution was to create a (new) object of devotion?
- What are the 2 primary potential reasons that the Hebrew people would have had (golden) earrings with which to make the golden calf?
 - How might this impact our understanding of the irony in this scene?
- Reread vs. 5 & 6. Consider the hypocrisy in Aaron’s language & the people’s actions; then discuss how we tend to mix-up/confuse genuine religious impulses & activities with idolatry.
- How might Moses’ conversation with The LORD shape our attitudes & interactions regarding people with whom we disagree?

Matthew 22:1-14

- Consider the context & purpose of many weddings in the ancient world, then discuss why the refusal of the original invitees was especially offensive.
 - How are we similar to those who failed to attend?
- In what way(s), do you think, vs. 8-10 are an illustration of The Gospel?
- How do you interpret the meaning of vs. 11-13?
 - What, in turn, are the implications for born-again believers (i.e. -those who have been “invited to the banquet”)?
- In your own words, rephrase vs. 14 & then discuss what this means for The Church/believers.

Psalm 106:1-23

- Describe the importance of memory in this passage & how practicing it keeps us from harming ourselves/others.
- How are vs. 6 & 7 are reflection of human nature (in general) & us today?
- Discuss the ideas of Redemption, Protection/Provision, Rebellion, Discipline & Regeneration in this Text.
- What was the significance of the idol being in the shape of a calf?
 - What would be a modern day equivalent of this idolatry?
 - *Share your understanding vs. 20 & the self-destructive tendency depicted in it.

IN CLOSING

- How did tonight’s passages connect to one another & our Fall Theme/the topic for this week?
- What people/characters did you most identify with out of this evening’s readings?
 - Why/how so?