

Sunday's Sermon: Responding to Jesus—Mark 5:1-20

On Sunday, we looked at three interactions Jesus had, and the three different responses He received. The demons rejected Him, the townspeople tried to ignore Him, and the formerly demon-possessed man submitted to Him. We are of course called to submit to Jesus, and part of that submission means embracing the unique calling that Jesus has for our lives.

Study It:

Often times, how we respond to Jesus is based off of the perspective through which we view Jesus. For example, we'll certainly respond to Him differently if we view Him as a king than if we view him as an adviser. The Gospels are full of examples of people perceiving Jesus a certain way and thereby expecting Him to act a certain way.

Read Mark 10:17-22

1. How did the man in this story view Jesus? What was he hoping to get from him?
2. Why did the man go away "disheartened" and "sorrowful"?

Read Luke 10:38-42

3. What did Mary and Martha each want from Jesus? What did Jesus want from them?
4. Why wasn't Martha applauded for her serving?
5. Are you more like Mary or Martha?

Read John 3:25-30

6. John showed his submission to Jesus by embracing Jesus' increasing influence at the cost of his own influence. What can we learn from John's example?
7. In what ways has submitting to Jesus cost you something?

Respond to the following quote from Kyle Idleman:

"Jesus never left open the option of selective commitment. There are no exception clauses. You don't get to say, 'I follow Jesus—but when it comes to this area of my life, I do things my way.' If you call yourself a Christian, by definition you are committing to following Christ with every area of your life. It doesn't mean you will follow perfectly, but you can't say, 'I'm a Christian' and then refuse to follow Christ when it comes to certain people or places or practices."

8. Do you agree or disagree with Kyle Idleman's take on what it means to follow Jesus? Explain.
9. Very few would consciously say that they are blocking Jesus from certain parts of their lives, and yet we are often blind to the ways we do that very thing. How can we avoid making this mistake?
10. Do you find it easy or difficult to follow Jesus in every area of your life? What are some things that have helped you in this area?