

Sermon Follow-up | December 1, 2019

12 Books of History — Waiting for the King ... 1 Sunday of Advent

Focus Passage: Judges 21:25, Ruth 1:1-18, Matthew 1:1–6

Additional Context: Judges 21

Other Passages Referenced:

Sermon Recap: God has been preparing for Christmas from the beginning. In Judges the culture is collapsing. There has been a downward spiral with repeated sequences of sin ... servitude ... cries for help ... a judge/deliverer ... Salvation ... and rest. Things deteriorated so that in later sequences, there was no crying out for help and no rest. In Ruth, the King is coming. God provides a Redeemer Kinsman, Boaz, to provide for Naomi and Ruth. Boaz marries Ruth and their descendants lead to the birth of King David 10 generations later. In Matthew, the King, Jesus, has come and promises to come again. The King came the first time to rescue us from our collapsing culture and to give us true rest in Him. He calls us to commit to the welfare of the places in which He puts us each day. He also calls us to announce the good news that the New Kingdom is open to all who believe, and His Kingdom will never collapse. Whatever is happening in the culture around us, we can rest in the assurance that King Jesus will return and will bring salvation. We can also commit to living faithfully in our relationships to Him and others.

Connect: *Making Honest Connections with One Another*

- *How did God speak to you through the sermon or your Bible reading this week?*
- *What is the biggest challenge you're aware of facing in the coming week?*
- *Do you have a follow-up report about last week's question related to investing in the spiritual formation of someone else or seeking out someone for help with your ongoing spiritual formation?*

Grow: *Listening to and Learning from God's Word – Read Matt 1:1–5. Then also read Ruth 1:1–18 and Judges 21:25.*

1. What is significant about the two women's names mentioned in Matt 1:5?
2. Can you identify a particular area (or areas) of your life where you tend to do what is right in your own eyes rather than faithfully living according to God's instruction? (i.e. forgiving others, beliefs and practices related to sexuality, stewardship of material possessions, stewardship of your time and talents, etc.?)
3. How do you envision combining your commitment to serving Jesus with a commitment to the welfare of your city? What would need to change for you to do both better?

Serve: *Serving King Jesus and Others, By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word*

1. The sermon stated, "I'm concerned that we've become too concerned to rest." Fasting from phone, food, screen time, news, etc. were suggested as ways to unplug from those cultural concerns to rest and pray. Do you sense the Spirit prompting you to an intentional fast to help you rest in the assurance that King Jesus is in control, even when you or everything else seems to be out of control?
2. Can you think of a concrete step toward blessing your city that you can take in the coming weeks? ... If yes, what will you do? If no, will you ask God to show you one?
3. Do you know anyone who is upset by the current state of American culture? What words/ideas from the sermon and passages we've discussed might you share with them?

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wchapel.org