

### **Sunday, Feb. 19**

1. In Hebrews 4, the writer writes about “entering rest,” or “not entering rest.” What stirs in you as you think about entering eternal rest?
2. How does this view of heaven, and entering rest, shape your understanding of Sabbath today?
3. What does it mean to truly remember who you are, who you belong to, and where you’re headed?
4. How do you imagine an understanding of the end (eternity with God in his new creation) impacting your today? And how does that impact the way we love God and others today?
5. What’s one way you can stop and “practice heaven” this week?
6. How do you plan to keep your Sabbath practices alive going forward?

### **“The Jesus Way” - Lent Sermon Series**

#### **Sunday, Feb. 26**

1. What are some Lenten practices you’ve engaged in the past? How has the previous “Sabbath Heart” sermon series set you up to continue Sabbath and intentional practices into Lent?
2. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus goes from his baptism in the Jordan right into the wilderness BEFORE starting his ministry in Galilee. What does that stir in you, knowing that our tendency is to be people that “do” a lot?
3. The devil tempts Jesus 3 times, and each time Jesus responds with “it is written....” He’s calling back to the Jewish scriptures, the Word of God. How does that help us understand the nature and value of Scripture in our own lives?
4. The devil tempts Jesus (fully human AND divine) with very human things; control, power, prosperity. What do Jesus’ responses teach us about the nature of who Jesus is and the nature of the Kingdom of God?
5. Can you recall a time you’ve been tempted? Or maybe are currently being tempted? How might Jesus’ experience in the wilderness speak to how we show up in our own times of temptation?

#### **Sunday, Mar. 5**

1. How have you been engaging in the “Simple Living Challenge?” What have you noticed about yourself and about God in that?
2. Jesus reads from the Isaiah scroll, and says “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled...(vs. 21). What does this (and the words he read from the scroll) tell us about the way of Jesus? And our own discipleship and call to live the way of Jesus?
3. In what areas of your life do you think the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to lean into the Jesus way? What might you need to do that?
4. In vs. 23, Jesus names that the people will look to him to “do here also...the things we heard you did.” Jesus does not. How do you think that was received by those Jesus was

talking to? What does that reveal about Jesus' way when it comes to understanding his call, mission, and purpose?

5. As Jesus is faced with an angry, and likely disappointed, group of people threatening to "hurl him off the cliff" (vs. 29), Jesus doesn't take their anger for them by simply doing what they want him to do, nor does he try to convince them to calm down. He simply lets them be. How are you at this? How do you show up in the face of the possibility of disappointing people?

### **Sunday, Mar. 12**

1. Have you continued to (or begun to) engage in the "Simple Living Challenge?" What has that been like, and what has God revealed to you?
2. In Luke 5:4, Jesus instructs Simon to let his nets down in deep water. Then, in vs.5, Simon responds with "we worked all night long" and caught nothing, but yet he still lets the nets down where Jesus instructs. What do you sense in Simon's response to Jesus? Have you ever felt God leading you to do something that you felt you've already done with different results, or something that you "know" the outcome of? Have you ever been surprised by what God did in those cases?
3. Simon's response to his nets breaking, to Jesus filling the nets is a response of "Go away, I'm a sinful man!" (vs. 8) Have you ever had a similar response in the face of Jesus showing up in your life? Have you ever been overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus? What was that like?
4. In verse 10, Jesus says something that we see a lot of in the Gospels; "Do not be afraid." How might you receive that if you were Simon in this case? How do you receive that today, in light of the things you face today, and in the ways God shows himself to you?
5. In vs. 11, Jesus tells Simon and the others that from now on, they will "catch people" (NRSV). Other versions say they will be "fishers of men and women." What does it look like to partner with Jesus in "catching people?" What does this fishing analogy stir in you? Who was it in your life that caught you, or who was it that was fishing for you when you first came to know Jesus?

### **Sunday, Mar. 19**

1. At this point in "The Jesus Way" sermon series, what is standing out to you? How has the Holy Spirit stirred in you through Luke's Gospel?
2. The centurion in Luke 7 is quite bold in sending people to Jesus to request that Jesus heal his slave. What does the centurion's boldness (and Jesus' response) stir in you?
3. In verse 13, Jesus sees the widow mourning her son's death, and Luke says that Jesus "had compassion for her." What does this tell us about Jesus and the Jesus way? Can you think of a time you were moved to compassion for someone like Jesus was?
4. In Luke 7, both the centurion and the widow (and the son) are outsiders. Jesus blasts through cultural norms to be with both of them. What sort of cultural norms stand in the way of our being with people, specifically people "outside" the church or "outside" the NW Iowa norms?
5. Leslie Newbigin says that the church is called to be "healed and healing." In what ways have you been healed? Or maybe how are you praying for healing today? And in what

ways do you think the church can be about the healing of our community/country/world?  
In what ways are you seeing that happen already?

### **Sunday, Mar. 26**

1. How has your "Simple Living Challenge" gone thus far? What have you "tried on?"
2. Peter declares that despite what others are saying about who Jesus is, he believes Jesus to be the Son of God. Knowing how bold a statement this was for Peter, what do you imagine it may have been like to hear Jesus then say that he must undergo suffering and die?
3. What stirs in you when you read Jesus' words, "If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily and follow me?" What does it mean to take up your cross?
4. In what ways are you tempted to "gain the whole world, but lose yourself?"
5. In verse 27, Jesus says "there are some...who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God." The Jesus way is a glimpse into the Kingdom already here. Where are you seeing the Kingdom of God break in even now?

### **Sunday, Apr. 2**

1. It's Palm Sunday, what stirs in you today as we continue to move toward Easter?
2. The Scribes and Chief Priests continue to try to trick and trip up Jesus, and yet Jesus remains true to his identity and call. What does it say about the Jesus way, that Jesus continues to hold to that call and purpose even in the face of growing opposition? What does this and the Jesus way show us about how we engage with those who may disagree with us, or who may be different from us?
3. The Jewish way was to view their lives as loyal to EITHER God or the empire (even paying taxes was seen as "loyalty"). One or the other. But Jesus says give to the empire what is theirs AND to God what is God's. What do Jesus' words teach us about how we show up in the world, and how we allow our faith and discipleship to impact all areas, even the secular?
4. Are there times when you're tempted to isolate into compartments of sacred and secular? If the Jewish way was to isolate from the secular, and the Empire way was to assimilate and give allegiance to the empire, how does Jesus' "3rd way" of living faithfully in both arenas speak to our lives today? How might that "3rd way" be fruitful in our neighborhoods?
5. In what ways might Jesus' words feel freeing to you today?

### **Sunday, Apr. 9**

### **Sunday, Apr. 16**

### **Sunday, Apr. 23**

**Sunday, Apr. 30**