

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Sparrow

March 21st & 22nd

Speaker: NCC Campus Pastors: Joel Schmidgall, Jenni Clayville, Robb Schmidgall, Marion Mason, Jon Vaughan, Lyle Tard, and Dave Schmidgall

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

Series Overview

Our church is coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way. Each week, we'll be learning a new element of the way of Jesus together during weekend services, and we'll set aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond to and dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in Him. Sign up at ncc.re/TheWay to receive a devotional guide each Monday through Saturday with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices centered around the Jesus way.

Series Discussion Question

What struck you about this week's way of Jesus?
What does it look like to put that into practice?

Message Overview

In a season of social isolation and anxiety, this weekend we're taking a team approach to our message. You'll see a show of unity in isolation with all seven of our Campus Pastors taking a part in the sermon via Ted Talk.

On a daily basis we find ourselves inundated with new data and further pushed into isolation from one another. Questions are consistently swirling. What if I get the virus? Am I going to survive financially through this? How can I do my job and home school my kids? What if someone I love who is health vulnerable gets sick? The questions can

be endless. And worry can be overwhelming.

Our text is Matthew 6:25-34 where Jesus exhorts us to do what seems impossible: Do not worry. He was saying that to an audience who actually had more to be anxious about than we do. Yet, he called back to the very basics of faith: trust. We pray today that you find faith deep within your soul, to reach out and re-center yourself in Christ and find trust in Him.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

The Greek word used for worry and anxiousness, *merimnaó*, speaks to a worry within a present-day reality. What worries are you facing within your reality today?

How do we balance a worry-free life in a worry-filled world? Do we as Americans, the Church, and as individuals truly live like we believe God will provide our every need? What would it look like if we did?

What do we receive when we place our worry in the kingdom of God?

When was the last time you ruminated or meditated on the Word of God? How can you challenge yourself to meditate daily in this season?

Pastor Marion talked about tools we can use to combat worry (prayer, thanksgiving, worship, etc.). What tools have you been putting into place this week? What verses or prayers do you go to when you feel worried?

How often have you heard the birds over the past few days? During this time, what does it look like to slow down to God's pace?

What are some ordinary things you've seen this week that point you towards God's love?

Who is someone you can share this message with this week? Who needs to hear a message of hope amidst the world's message of worry?

Practical Application

- Read through the Lord's Prayer. Pause after each line, take a deep breath in, and relax in the peace, hope, and strength of God's presence:
*Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,
 Give us this day, our daily bread,
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen

- Spend time meditating on Psalm 23 this week:

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

- Continue to engage with Scripture readings, devotional thoughts, and spiritual practices throughout the week by subscribing to The Jesus Way: A Daily Practice at ncc.re/TheWay.