**Morning sermon series: Heaven Meets Earth**

**"Like Jesus"** (Matthew 10v16-31)

*Does the drive for security and comfort strongly influence our decisions?*

In chapter 10 of Matthew, the twelve apostles are moving away from comfort and security (v9&10). Being like Jesus (v24&25) in our priorities and securities, is central to being a Christian – this comes from our relationship with the Father (v8b).

**1) Talking Like Jesus** (v26&27, v16-v20)

Jesus tells us to talk openly about life in the Kingdom of his Father, and not to be afraid of what is ‘earthly’ (people, opposition, ridicule, etc.) – v26-28.

*How can it be loving or compassionate to keep the truth and the wonder of who God is from the people around us?* To accept the cost of sharing the Father is to live like Jesus; like him, we witness by the Spirit in us (v20). The motivation is the opposite of guilt – we want to be witnessing out of the overflow of our relationship with Christ (v8b again!).

**2) Suffering Like Jesus** (v21-v25)

When Heaven Meets Earth there is a clash of kingdoms, bringing division and hostility! We will be hated by all sorts of people because of Jesus (v22, v24&25). As the Lord and teacher, so the disciple.

Jesus’ journey in this world was one of giving his life away for us, suffering and dying on the Cross, and then coming into resurrection life (v23b). If we are in Christ, we are being led (and kept) by him on that kind of journey. And, so, the twelve disciples here are in uncharted territory, out of their comfort zone. It is the Christ-like journey that leads to resurrection life and salvation. *How uncomfortable and risky a journey is it for us?*

**3) Confident Like Jesus** (v28-v31)

In Matthew, we see Jesus’ astonishing confidence and steadfastness under mounting pressure. This heavenly confidence comes from his unbreakable relationship with his Father. When we see God’s goodness and experience his astonishing love, we grow in this kind of confidence. You can’t lose your true life if you’re trusting him (v28&29). God knows you personally and guards your life as you trust in Christ (v30&31). He is doing something wonderful (Romans 8v28&29).

**Evening sermon series: Song of the King**

**"Looking Both Ways"** (Psalm 21)

*Should we read the Bible backwards?*

Jesus in Matthew’s gospel: the anointed King, the son of David.

**1) The King’s Victory is Ours** (v1-7)

The prayers of God’s people in Psalm 20 have been answered according to God’s loyal love, his covenant with King David. The astonishing victory described here goes beyond any that David won himself – it points to Jesus’ resurrection and victory over death, and his presence now with the Father (v6).

We stand in the present trusting the covenant, unfailing love of the Lord (v7). What does the future look like?

**2) The King’s Enemies** (v8-13)

Christ is going to appear as Lord and King, and his absolute opposition to evil means his right anger will burn against his enemies (v9). They will be swallowed up and consumed.Nonecan or will stand against this King (v11&12). Christ’s victory will be everywhere and absolute – a stunning new creation.

**3) The King’s Joy is Ours**

Jesus’ journey is our journey! His people share in his kingdom. His full and complete victory will be our victory. His joy in his Father’s presence will be our joy in the same place (John 17v24).