



Series: Unexpected Messiah
Passage Mathew 14:34-15:20
Title: Christ Centered Identity
Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 11/8/2020

Discussion Starter – When you look back on your life, what influenced you the most and gave you your sense of identity? How has your Identity changed over time?

Christ Centered Identity (Matthew 14:34-15:20)

- Read Matthew 14:34-36. Describe the reaction of the people when they found out Jesus was coming to their town. In a spiritual sense, how does this passage relate to the church today?
- Read Matthew 15:1-9. Why do you think these traditions came about in the Jewish culture? What are some of the comparative traditions that have come about in the church age? When do traditions become a dangerous problem?
- Where do you think the scribes and the Pharisees thought their identity came from and how did this keep them from seeing Jesus for who He is?
- What does it mean to you to have a Christ Centered Identity?
- The scribes and the Pharisees accused Jesus and His disciples of not follow the ceremonial washing of the hands before eating. What does Jesus accuse the scribes and Pharisees of doing? What specific tradition were they placing above the commandment of God? How might this also apply to us in the church today?
- What is the difference between an identity that can be lost versus an identity that cannot be lost? Read Hebrews 12:25-29. What additional insights and truths do we see revealed in these scriptures.
- Read Isaiah 6:1-10. What is your biggest take away on why God's prophet Isaiah sees himself in such a lowly state? What is Isaiah's point of reference? How is this different from how the scribes and the Pharisees saw themselves?
- Read Matthew 15:10-20. Describe in your own words what Jesus is teaching here in this passage about what defiles a person.
- Why do you think God hates the self-righteousness in people?
- What are the four identifying self-righteous traits of the scribes and the Pharisees that Pastor David pointed out in these passages? How do they demonstrate a progressive decline in being self-righteous?
- What is the key to having our identity in Christ? Read Matthew 13:23. How is this verse pivotal in keeping in our identity in Christ?