

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

October 27-November 5, 2017

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Matthew 23:1–12 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=375342627>).

Other readings are: Joshua 3:7–17; Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13

The theme is: What Should I Do?

After spending two months with the Hebrew people on their journey to freedom, we now turn to the Gospel of Matthew. Although we have crossed into a very different time and culture, the issue of leadership is just as important as it was in the time of Moses and Joshua. In Matthew's community, the scribes and Pharisees were leaders. They knew the Torah well and taught it to others. Jesus tells his followers to listen to their teaching and do what they say but warns them not to imitate their behavior. The actions of their leaders do not match what they and the Torah teach. More specifically, it is their motives that Jesus condemns. Even their good works are tainted by the fact that those deeds are motivated by a desire to improve the leaders' own standing in the community. The community that honors Jesus is an egalitarian community. Yes, leaders are important; but how they lead makes a real difference that shapes the community. Leadership, according to Jesus, is service. Rather than call attention to themselves, leaders should call the followers' attention to the triune God. Those who lead as Jesus led will help to form a community marked by love. Remember that Jesus is speaking to the "followers" here. They need to hold leaders accountable rather than following blindly.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

We live in a culture in which it is easy to become obsessed with self-image. We think about the image that is projected by our clothing, the car we drive, our job title, etc. How would things change if instead we asked, "How am I revealing the image of God in my words and actions?"

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of October 29:

Who have the important leaders been in your life?

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