

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 9

MATTHEW 9:14-17

CONNECT PARTY

Dessert Party Friday, Friday, March 31st at 6pm

Join us for a casual evening with the leadership of Element.
Come meet and connect with others. We will provide the desserts.
All are welcome, whether you are new to Element
or have been coming for a while.
RSVP at connect@ourelement.org

BAPTISM INFORMATION MEETING

Brief meeting following this service

Come learn more about the what and why of baptism.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS TRIP

**Support Jasen Tapia headed
back to the Czech Republic.**

Learn more at: jasentapia1@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

AUTHORITY

FULFILLING THE LAW

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:14-17

Leviticus 16

Isaiah 53:8

2 Corinthians 5:17

Hebrews 13:8

Isaiah 40:8

March 5, 2017

www.ourelement.org

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WEEK 9 SERMON NOTES

Parables are illustrations or stories that Jesus used to convey deeper spiritual concepts. In the Greek world, parables were well known; the word “parable” even comes from a Greek source. Rabbis for ages used the idea of parables not just for moral storytelling, but they used to use it as broadly as possible. Parables became fictitious narratives that would generally refer to something that might naturally occur by which spiritual and moral matters might be conveyed.

- In Matt 6 Jesus says, “Consider the lilies of the field.”
- In Luke 12 Jesus says, “Consider how the wild flowers grow.”

Jesus creates word pictures so we would understand more of God, the world He made, and how to live in it.

How have you seen storytelling used to convey a truth?

Fasting is when you go without something in order to try to focus more effectively on connecting/reconnecting with God. Most people do this with food and set for themselves a time frame.

Read Matthew 9:14-17.

Have you ever fasted?

What was to the hoped for result?

Jesus’ intent with His words in Matthew 9:14-17 was to help us as readers, and the audience as a whole, to go on a path of discovery that ends with the understanding of Jesus being our true and only savior. He starts by talking about a party, full of joy, because He is here among His people, but the over-religious simply want to focus on fasting because they have lost sight of what is truly important. Jesus will refocus that by contrasting a wedding and a funeral.

- The first thing Jesus talks about is his redemptive mission to save His people. That mission should bring joy because He is the bridegroom here to rescue the bride.

- The second thing Jesus speaks of is sorrow because it will require the bridegroom’s death on a cross.

Jesus points to the task of the Messiah.

Do you have an issue that is a “pet issue” that you think everyone else should get behind? (could be political, spiritual, or mundane?)

How do you feel when people disagree with your passion?

Through the words of Matthew 9:16-17 Jesus likens all of the issues in our lives that we put above Him as trying to stick a patch on an old garment; it looks odd and doesn’t work well because when the new piece shrinks it will make the garment worse. Many people today are disillusioned with Christianity because Christians have turned the faith into a set of rules, but Christianity is not about new fasts (in the case of Jesus’ parable), it is about the truth of the ancient faith that God had promised a savior to come and remove what kept us from God’s Kingdom, our sin.

How would you define the word “Christian?”

A Christian is someone whose life is found in Jesus. Jesus calls us to return to what is best: God’s salvation of us. Jesus is the Word of God that has taken on flesh. Jesus teaches with authority that says the true grace of the ancient faith will be renewed for everyone. He points out that He was/is the point of the ancient faith.

How do you understand Judaism as it is fulfilled in Christianity?

Brad Young – *“Jesus is speaking about His purpose: He came to bring renewal and redemption through the power of the Kingdom of Heaven. His purpose was not to destroy the significance of the Torah but to fulfill it.”* Jesus desires to make us into new wineskins, a revitalized people, enjoying the fulfillment of the best old wine.

Is the truth of the Gospel sweeter or more burdensome the longer you walk with Jesus? Why do you think that is?