**Sermon – *Matthew 7:15-29 “Confronted By Choice”*** – 35 minutes (42.5 allowed)

For Sunday, 01/13/19:

1. Series Context: Part of the series “The New Normal” (last sermon on our “Sermon on the Mount” series)
2. Sermon Title: “Confronted By Choice”
3. Text: Matthew 7:15-29
4. Medimemo: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” [Matthew 7:21]
5. Theme: Wrapping up our series on the “Sermon on the Mount”, we should be astonished by Jesus’ authority and prepared to choose wisely.
6. Goal(s):
   1. Choose! Surrender to Jesus
   2. Choose! Act in Obedience
7. Main Point(s): Astonishment to Jesus’ authority should lead us to wise choices in both surrender and obedience.

OUTLINE:

Worship Song & Transition (1.0 Minute)

1. “*At the Cross*” (Larissa)
2. Pastoral Prayer – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - Tanner

Introduction (6.0 Minutes)

1. Greeting
2. Context of This Message
3. Prayer of Transition
   1. Note: Scripture Reading will be within the Teaching in chunks

Main Body (18.0 Minutes)

1. Scripture Reading – Matthew 7:15-20
2. Encouragement #1 – We should choose to follow Jesus with careful discernment. (2 kinds of prophets)
3. Scripture Reading – Matthew 7:21-23
4. Encouragement #2 – We should choose to follow Jesus with genuine relationship. (2 kinds of disciples)
5. Scripture Reading – Matthew 7:24-27
6. Encouragement #3 – We should choose to follow Jesus with responsive action. (2 kinds of foundations)

Conclusion (10.0 Minutes)

1. Main Point – Astonishment to Jesus’ authority should lead us to wise choices in both surrender and obedience (vs 28-29).
2. Final Exhortation – Choose
3. Altar Call – Choose Jesus
   1. Instruction
   2. Song & Call
4. Altar Call – Choose Genuineness:
   1. Instruction
   2. Song & Call
5. Final Word of Encouragement

Prayer & Transition (1.0 Minutes)

1. Prayer -

Next Element - Announcements (2.5 Minutes)

1. See Planning Center Online
2. Benediction

**Sermon – “Confronted By Choice” [Matthew 7:15-29]** – 35 minutes (42.5 allowed)

###### TRANSITION & INTRODUCTION – 6.0 minute

Transition and Greeting:

1. Pastoral Prayer – Sanctity of Life Sunday – Tanner Turley (he dismisses children)
2. Good Morning! For those of you who I haven’t had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is John Reddy – privileged to serve…

Context:

1. This morning, our series of teachings from the Sermon on the Mount officially comes to an end. Since last October, we’ve been carefully picking our way through the gospel of Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7.
2. And once again, I get to share the last word in a long sermon series.
   1. I was privileged to finish up our study of the Book of Acts last July.
   2. And, now I get to see how Jesus concludes his teaching on what we’ve been calling, “The New Normal” – what does it look like for a disciple of Jesus Christ to live in the kingdom of God – here on earth.
3. I’ve been given a great head start because last week, Pastor Chasteen reviewed Matthew 7:7-14. We were encouraged by Jesus’ teaching to not hesitate to persistently pursue deep relationship with Him. We were told to “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened.*” [Matthew 7:7]
4. This pursuit requires awareness and humility; connecting our prayer to God’s will; and the kind of perseverance that characterizes one who desires relationship and intimacy with God.
5. But… before we concluded, we were confronted with a choice to make by Jesus. [PAUSE]
6. Now, I personally like choice. Don’t you?
   1. For example, one of my favorite secret pleasures is to be given a Whitman’s Sampler. You know what that is, right? A yellow box of chocolate… carefully wrapped in air-tight cellophane to keep its freshness… and, once you open it… a huge selection of different kinds of chocolates… dark chocolate coconut… almond nougats… and my “go to” favorite - milk chocolate caramel…
   2. And you know why I like a Whitman’s Sampler? Because I like to choose. I like to freedom of considering alternatives. In fact, I think that we all really like the freedom to choose. It makes us feel more human… not just a robot… not just wound up and released to life. It’s actually how God has designed us.
7. Well… as Jesus began to wind down his teaching to his disciples and the crowds following him, he described a choice that his hearers would have to make.
8. He offered them a Whitman’s Sampler but… it only had two ultimate choices truly available.
   1. Choice 1: In this life and moving towards eternity, his hearers would either choose to walk life through a gate that was broad and a path that was easy OR
   2. Choice 2: to walk through a gate that was narrow and a path that would be harder.
   3. As Pastor Chasteen encouraged us last week, the wide gate and easy path is what many throughout history have regretfully chosen and leads to death and destruction in the final hours;
   4. On the other hand, there is the narrow gate and the harder path –
      1. the one predicated on surrendering ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
      2. the one that ultimately leads to life eternal
      3. the one with the certainty that the few who choose to walk it will be continuously accompanied by Him.
9. In a few moments, we’ll pick up where this teaching left off… Matthew, chapter 7, beginning in verse 15. And, as you turn in your Bibles to read along with me, let me shoot straight with you…
10. This morning, I will call each and every person hearing my voice – including me as the words leave my lips and circle back to my ears – to choose. In this hour, there can be no idle bystanders.
    1. If you hear this word, then by default, you will be CONFRONTED with a choice to make. I just want to be totally honest with you. No false advertising… no secret agenda… I’m going to ask you to choose and to act on your choice. Today will not be normal… it will not be typical… it will not be it just another day of attendance at church. I don’t mean to start off “heavy” but I do want to keep it “real”.
    2. By the time we finish considering what Jesus has to say, I think that we’ll all agree that there is no middle ground… no fence to stand on top of…
11. Thankfully, our Scripture this morning details several contrasts concerning the choices available to each one of us. We have not been abandoned to ignorance about what God desires… And so, let me lead us in prayer as we prepare our hearts to receive the Word…

Prayer of Transition:

1. Would you simply repeat after me while I pray?
   1. *“Heavenly Father… Speak to our hearts… and change our lives”. Amen.”*

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #1: [Matthew 7:15-20] (6m):**

1. If you will please open your Bibles to this morning’s key Scripture found in Matthew, chapter 7… we’ll begin reading at verse 15… [Pew Bible, p\_\_\_]
2. Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:15-20:
   1. *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*
3. “Beware”!
   1. In this text, Jesus “final words” of the Sermon on the Mount, he begins by sounding an alarm… by giving us the first of several warnings. He says that there are dangers in the journey of our spiritual walks. And because there are extreme dangers, we should exercise extreme caution.
   2. Here, false prophets claim to be speaking for God but… they lead those in God’s flock to abandon the narrow road for the broad one. They lead others to destruction.
      1. Appearing as one of God’s flock, they present themselves as a sheep – a citizen of the new covenant community but… they are really ravenous wolves (an image of viciousness that is found often in the Scriptures for those leaders who appear as genuine believers but hide their true intentions and the true effect that they cause – the ripping apart of the sheep.
      2. Because of this, Jesus calls His true disciples to exercise constant vigilance for ongoing danger.
         1. It would be wise for us to not be fooled by external appearance, rather we should be sensitive to the inward motivations of those who we look to as teachers.
4. This is a warning that the New Testament sounds many times.
   1. Later in this gospel, He warned His disciples:
      1. *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.* [Matthew 24:24]
   2. The Apostle Paul tells his protégé Timothy that the rise of false prophets will be, at least in part, because people will actually desire teaching that is bent towards them rather than God: *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.* [2 Timothy 4:3-4]
   3. And finally, the Apostle Peter says that the vigilance that Jesus encourages should be constant because the threat of these ravenous wolves will be constant and often subtle.
      1. *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be blasphemed.* [2 Peter 2:1-2]
5. And so, my first encouragement for us this morning is that we should choose to follow Jesus with careful discernment (2 kinds of prophets)
6. How will we discern?
   1. The Apostle John equips us with a principle that can help a Christian to identify the presence of ravenous wolves. He writes that we should consider their teaching about Jesus for what we hold to be fundamentally true about who Jesus is… what is crucial to our faith.
      1. *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God… They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.* [1 John 4:1-3,5]
   2. In other words, John says that doctrine, or the basic truths of what we believe, matters.
   3. And where is our doctrine rightly developed? What serves as our authority?
   4. Not in the creative minds of people but in the revealed Word of God.
   5. For the follower of Jesus, Scripture should be our authority!
   6. The Apostle Paul put it this way to his pastoral protégé Timothy:
      1. *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, know from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...* [2 Timothy 3:14-16]
         1. Sidebar: Erdmute/Community Group
7. In our text this morning, Jesus gives us a 2nd test for discerning the presence of false prophets. Using a common agriculture metaphor, he tells us to look at their “fruit” as evidence on the outside of the true nature of their internal reality.
   1. This is a familiar principle – even to urbanites like those living in Greater Medford.
   2. Here, “fruit” is more than just the deeds of people but everything they are including what they say and how they act.
   3. We can and should assess a teacher to the kingdom values that Paul encourages in places like Galatians 5:22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”* [Galatians 5:22-24]
   4. It is the responsibility of every follower of Jesus to pay attention, certainly to the teaching that a leader utters with his mouth but also the teaching that he demonstrates with his life.
   5. And as we pay attention, we are to recognize and discern the principles taught and the application of godly principles in the life lived by the teacher.
   6. In order to recognize, therefore we also need to be able to know the “truth” and “compare” what we see/hear. Therefore, we must become students of the Word ourselves. We must become familiar with the transformation and demonstration of that Word in our own lives.
8. My prayer for us this morning is that each of us will choose to follow Jesus with discernment that understands the authority of the revealed Word of God and is careful to observe the fruit of anyone who claims to teach it.
   1. For the saints must at all times be watchful to make certain that their leaders fulfill their calling…

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #2: [Matthew 7:21-23] (6m):**

1. Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:21-23:
   1. *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*
2. Jesus goes on to broaden his warning about leaders and considers anyone who claims to be His servant.
3. While the many shower him with the double title of immense respect “Lord, Lord” (revered teacher), the message here is that a mere confession is useless unless it is accompanied by action.
4. It is possible to make a profession of faith, but without a changed life. Jesus here declares that such an affirmation remains insufficient. Rather, a confession of faith spoken should be accompanied by an inner transformation of spirit that then results in obedience to the “will of [His] Father. In fact, it is a condition for entering the kingdom.
5. He goes on to say that “On that Day” – the day of Final Judgment when all men and women stand before God as defendants before the Ultimate Judge – appeals that point to the manifestation of noble external works (even supernatural wonders) will prove meaningless if there has been no transformation of spirit resulting in basic obedience to the Father’s will.
   1. As impressive as foretelling, exorcism, and miracles may be; what “impresses” God is genuine relationship with Him. A claim to be legitimate followers of Jesus is not enough if lives do not reflect that claim because there has been no time actually in the presence of God.
6. Therefore, my second encouragement is simply that we should choose to follow Jesus with genuine relationship. (Two kinds of disciples)
7. For those of us who like to “hang around churches”, this is a real danger to consider.
   1. For the lonely, friendship in community can be a draw.
   2. For the gifted, places to release skills and find excellence in service can be satisfying.
   3. For the intellectually curious, study and discussion can be stimulating.
   4. All of these pursuits can be noble. Yet, they are ultimately bankrupt if they are detached from what brings us all together – Union in Christ… Service for Christ… Relationship with Christ…
8. As a follower of Jesus, being in God’s presence will give us the opportunity to be continuously filled with His Spirit. That will allow us to learn His voice, understand His commands, and receive the transformation and power to actually live a resurrected life.
9. On the other hand, just as their can be false prophets, there can be false confessions. And a false confession based on works apart from intimacy with God will ultimately be met by the harsh but accurate judicial pronouncement of The Judge. “I never knew you.”
   1. It will be solemn and sober; it will be public; and it will be irreversible at the Final Judgment.
   2. Jesus will declare that a false confession is one where someone is committed to the power Jesus represented and to the status they thought they had, but they never allowed the will of God to control their actions.
   3. Had this false disciple really “known” God, His sheer presence in their lives would have moved them to believing loyalty as they sought to please the One that they experienced personally.
   4. Instead, a false confession based on anything other than personal surrender and ongoing intimacy with God will be met with total rejection on that Day of Judgment. It will be complete; it will be tragic; it will be for eternity.
10. My prayer for us this morning is that each of us will choose to follow Jesus with genuine relationship… the kind of relationship with God that is personal and grounded in the seeking of God’s presence.

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #3: [Matthew 7:24-27] (6m):**

1. Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27
   1. *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wiseman who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*
2. Jesus moves to this final illustration as he winds down His teaching on the Sermon on the Mount with a statement that summarizes the overall theme of the Sermon.

* 1. *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wiseman who built his house on the rock”.*
  2. It is inadequate to speak without “doing”; it is inadequate to hear without “doing”. For what we “do” determines who we are!
  3. A true and wise follower of Jesus puts his teaching into practice with a life-style firmly centered on “doing” the will of the Father. “Doing” in obedience is a verb that is ongoing; it is a lifelong pursuit and one that we’ve learned has an eternal destiny attached.

1. Jesus uses a word-picture of house-building that is very familiar to many of us. He contrasts a “hearer” and a “doer”. Those who just “hear” are fools (a common Old Testament characterization); those who actively “do” are wise.
2. In this parable, he offers another picture of the natural consequences of just “hearing” versus active “doing”.
3. Showing us the wide gate, the easy path, the false prophet, and the false confession, Jesus makes it plain that the outcomes of each are catastrophe, hopelessness, death, and destruction.
4. Showing us the narrow gate, the harder path, the true authority, and the personal confession, Jesus makes it plan that the outcome of each is hope and life.
5. This is not to say that for the wise follower of Jesus that they will be immune from the trials and tribulations of life here on earth. Rain will descend. Floods will rise. Winds will blow.
6. We will experience the natural consequences of this fallen world. But, we can be assured that as they come, what has been built will remain standing because the foundation is strong.
7. Now… what is the “foundation”? Let’s take a careful look…
8. Oftentimes, this parable is interpreted as an allegory where each individual part represents something. In fact, I just used the word-pictures of rain, floods, and winds to communicate trials and tribulations. And by extension, sometimes we allegorize this parable so that the “foundation” or “rock” that is solid represents Jesus. And, at times, that image can be useful for us.
9. But let us focus for a moment and be the accurate that we can be with this Scripture. What is the key to the foundation?
10. Verse 24: *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wiseman who built his house on the rock”.*
11. The strength of the foundation is… action in response to hearing the Word.
12. Now this strength, no doubt, emanates from Jesus. After all, John says that He is the Word; He is the One who encourages, commands, and appeals; and through Him, we learn the Father’s will.
13. But, Jesus himself says that the foundation will remain solid for those who not only “hear” but who “do”. His teachings are not to only heard but to be heeded.
14. The message is that the house built wisely, and the life built on obedience will stand now and at the final Judgment.
15. Therefore, my third encouragement is that we should choose to follow Jesus with responsive action. (Two kinds of foundations)
16. My prayer for us this morning is that each of us will choose to follow Jesus with this responsive action – the kind that not only hears the Word of the Lord but decides to take steps in obedience to the spirit of what’s been heard.

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS & PRAYER [Matthew 7:28-29] (10.0 minutes):**

1. Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:28-29
   1. *And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*
2. Astonishment… amazement…
3. Matthew tells us in the original Greek that the people gathered to hear Jesus were left with “ongoing feeling of wonder – even as they went home”. In other words, the effect upon them was so profound that it echoed outside of the moments of listening. It lingered and was profound.
4. What stood out? What powered that impact?
5. Well…. It was the “authority” that was evident in His teaching.
6. They were used to hearing from scribes… men who claimed no authority of their own. Their duty was to be faithful to the traditions that they had received. They searched commentaries, delved into opinions, and regurgitated insights and quotes from times past.
7. This Jesus was different. Unlike the Old Testament prophets who would declare “Thus says the Lord”, Jesus prefaced His teachings – even in the Sermon on the Mount with “Truly, truly I say to you”. He was so much more than just a commentator. He “commanded, and prohibited, and repealed, and promised, on his own bare word” [Stott, “The Message of the Sermon on the Mount”, p215]. How could He do this? He was divine… and his words and the Father’s were one! And even though His hearers could not organize their minds around all of the theological truth that that implies; they could definitely feels it effect… and it left them amazed.
8. As He taught, He was the Christ, the Lord, the Saviour, the Judge, + the Son of God. He was here to usher in the Kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven. In your response to His authoritative teaching, author Jenn Wilins raises some natural questions that we should must answer:
   1. Do “*you resemble a citizen of heaven or a citizen of earth: there are two kinds of gates. Which one will you choose?*
   2. *There’s two kinds of teachers. Which one will you listen to? There are two kinds of servants. Which one will you be? There are two kinds of foundations. On which will you build?*
   3. *If ever a sermon required a response, surely it is this one! Jesus’ listeners did not know how His earthly ministry would end, but we do. If they listened and were amazed, how much more amazed ought we be, as those who live in the light of the finished work of Christ?” [*Jenn Wilkins, “Sermon on the Mount”]
9. Choice: Call to Salvation
   1. This morning, I was upfront when I told you that I would ask you to make a choice… conscious… deliberate… wise…
   2. In your mind’s eye, consider that a “Whitman’s Sampler” is being held out… but there are only two choices in this box… Will you choose Jesus – fully and authentically - or will you not? [Pause]
   3. For several months now, we’ve been exploring the many facets of the Sermon on the Mount. People across history and across the world have admired the masterfulness of its teaching. But many, I regret have missed one crucial point.
   4. The type of kingdom living described throughout can only be accomplished by acknowledging the King! Without the favor of God the Father, the worship of Jesus His Son, and the power of His Holy Spirit, the “New Normal” of kingdom living is impossible to sustain and meaningless in its application.
   5. Instructions:
      1. And so… I’m going to ask some of you to do something that may feel a little awkward at first…
      2. If you have reached the point in your faith journey where you wish to enter the narrow gate and choose to follow Jesus as Christ, Lord, Savior, Judge, and Son of God, then I’m going to invite you to come and tell someone.
         1. When we begin to sing our next song of worship, I’ve asked Pastor Tanner to come and stand at the center.
         2. When he does, I challenge you to go to him, look him in the eye, and boldly proclaim, “I choose to follow Jesus”!
            1. If this is the morning of your choice, awesome! Come on down!
            2. If sometime in the past few months, you’ve arrived at that decision or made that choice but you’ve never announced that decision publicly, then I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. Come on down!
      3. A careful reading of the gospels shows that whenever Jesus called people to repentance and a life of faith, a public acknowledge accompanied that profession of faith.
      4. For me, 40 years ago this month, as a teenager listening to my boyhood idol – Boston Red Sox shortstop Rico Petrocelli – I heard the gospel message of hope in Jesus at a gathering at Park Street Church.
      5. Much to my surprise, my heart was made alive and I was compeled to leave my seat in the last row of the balcony there. When I got to the front of the church, I surrendered the bag of pot in my jacket even as I surrendered my heart to His Lordship.
      6. Truth is, it was awkward asking people in the pews to get out of my way. It felt like a long walk forward.
      7. I didn’t know what to expect when I got there. I wasn’t sure that I was qualified… or dignified… but I was ready to act.
      8. So I came forward. [PAUSE]
         1. My life has never been the same.
         2. My prayer is that for some of you gathered here this morning. This will be a day that you will remember for many years to come.
   6. Invite: Altar Call
      1. I invite everyone to rise and join us in singing our Song of Worship.
      2. And, I invite anyone who is ready to choose the narrow path of Jesus to come down and tell Pastor Turley so we can rejoice and pray with you.
      3. Please rise as we sing… and come when you are ready…
   7. Sing: “The Rock Won’t Move”
   8. Minister:
      1. Address Tanner
      2. Other pray
      3. Give something? Scripture/Bible?
10. Choice: Call to Genuineness (The New Normal)
    1. Author RT Frances wrote this: *“A professed adherence to Jesus and his teaching may be very impressive so as to deceive others, and even the professed disciple himself, but Jesus here gives warning that it will not deceive God, who looks for practical results. The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is not meant to be admired but to be obeyed.”* (RT France, “Matthew”, p150)
       1. The Truth? It is easy to simply admire the teachings of Jesus. But, God desires more from us… He wants all of us… not some of us; not most of us… not the public self… not the pious image… he wants below the surface… etc…
       2. Jon asked a great question last week… How many of you feel a little “overwhelmed” by the new normal? Raise your hands… (Yeah! Me too…)
       3. Again, there are really only Two Choices before us. And the true disciple of Jesus Christ chooses a life that is Genuine before Him… Genuine in relationship; Genuine in motivation; Genuine in action and obedience.
       4. No doubt, you have experience at least one moment in the last several months where you were convicted by God’s Holy Spirit in the Word that we studied of a gap in Genuineness.
       5. This morning, I’m going to offer you a chance to make this right; to declare a choice.
    2. Instructions: I choose to live the “genuine life” as the New Normal of following Jesus
       1. This is a chance to not only hear the Word this morning but to respond in an action that will point towards many more actions to come by faith.
    3. Invite: Altar Call
       1. We are going to continue to worship God in song.
       2. And, as we sing, I invite anyone who is ready to choose a life of genuine discipleship – one prepared to grow as a follower of Jesus Christ - to come down here as an act of choice and surrender; a desire to grow in intimacy and obedience with Him.
       3. When you get here, come with the commitment that “I choose to live the “Genuine New Normal” of following Jesus.
          1. When you come, you can seek prayer with one of our Intercessors here OR
          2. Just come and stand/kneel and share your heart with God… receive His forgiveness, encouragement, and comfort…
       4. I invite you to simply come. Don’t hesitate. Don’t look around… Just come…
    4. Sing: “The Rock Won’t Move”
    5. Minister
       1. Go to any Prayer Counselor OR Pray independently
11. Final Word of Encouragement (after prayer)
    1. When the Word is preached, I always ask how myself, how can I leave with a next step?
    2. The distance between your decision around that next step and walking out of here and doing nothing is often the measure of your commitment.
    3. My prayer is that each of us leaves here this morning having chosen wisely.
    4. Let us leave this morning with
       1. New life
       2. New hope
       3. New commitment
       4. New joy
    5. Next Week – Vision Sunday….
       1. The New Normal TOGETHER…
       2. [Let us pray]

**PRAYER & TRANSITION (1.0 minutes):**

Prayer & Transition (1 Minute)

1. Transition – Let’s Us Pray: *Heavenly Father, …*
   1. Heavenly Father,
   2. Lord Jesus,
   3. Spirit of the Living God,
   4. This morning, we bow and ask...

Next Element - Announcements (2.0 Minutes)

Benedictions: