



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## BECOMING CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Luke 14:25-26*  
*Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."*

This announcement by Jesus must have fallen on His hearers' ears like a thunderclap. In a culture where people were taught to respect – almost revere – their parents, Jesus' demand that people "hate" their families sounded practically blasphemous. It certainly sounded like a violation of the Fifth Commandment which was

given to them by God Himself. But for those who understand who Christ is and what following Him really means, this declaration sounds perfectly reasonable – even if difficult to obey.

Jesus' stark announcement underscored the fact that following Him is life's priority. Jesus wasn't calling His hearers to harbor malice and bitterness towards their family. He wasn't upending the Fifth Commandment. People should honor their parents and care for their families. But they must choose to give Jesus first place in their lives. A person's precious family, or anything else for that matter – should never become an obstacle to following Jesus. We must ensure that we do not cause our families to hinder us from a meaningful relationship with Christ. In fact, those who make Christ their life's priority discover that they become better parents and better family members. After all, our families are gifts from God which He expects us to treasure. But we must never treasure the gift more

than the Giver.

Christ was also underscoring the cost of discipleship (verses 28-39). He wants us to know that discipleship will cost us everything we have. Nothing less. Nothing more. While this at first seems like an unreasonable price, once we pay it, we discover that we have lost nothing. Actually, we have become richer. Our relationship with Christ fills our lives with the riches nothing on earth can provide. Too many of us suffer through subpar relationships with Christ because we are afraid to surrender fully to Him. May God help us to realize that real discipleship puts Jesus first, and thus ensures that everything else fall into their rightful place.

Following Jesus – God the Son – requires full commitment and devotion. But it yields life's fullest blessings and meaning.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**MAR 29**

Join us via Zoom video  
 Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**APR 1**

In-person at church.  
 For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**APR 3 & APR 17**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**APR 3**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**APR 3**

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

### ➤ Celebrate Easter with us!

Good Friday service April 15<sup>th</sup> 7 pm.

Resurrection Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> 11 am. **Invite a Friend!**

- As the pandemic continues to wane, we are encouraging all of you to begin making your way back to the in-person services. **We'd love to be back to full strength by Resurrection Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.** Of course, we will each continue to exercise the necessary care to keep everybody as safe as possible. Looking forward to seeing you soon!
- We'll celebrate the Lord's supper in the morning service this Sunday. Please be sure to have your supplies ready if you plan to participate from home.
- The church's **quarterly business meeting** will be held **April 9<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the morning service. All members, please plan to attend.
- Sherril Thorne, Giselle Collins, & Amari Collins are to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Giving Statements for 2021 are available at the Information Center at church.
- Bible Reading plans for 2022 are now available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.

### QUICK TIPS

#### Two ways to give your offering.

Traditional with a check by mail or

through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!