Sermon Name _____ November 21, 2021

God's Vision for His Church

Mario Alejandre
Pastor

Psalm 93; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 13:24-37

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Notes

Today's BIG IDEA

To submit to Jesus Christ to be your leader and your king, is to orient one's life and to see the cosmos in a new way. Paul's insistence that in Christ all things hold together is another way to say that. Our faith in Christ gives us a way of looking at the world that is both large enough and consistent enough to address the questions and problems that confront us. To then proclaim Christ as King is to acknowledge His lordship over all of life and over all of creation.

Memory Verse: "*I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.*" - Ephesians 3:16

Next Week's Verses: Psalm 25:4-7; Romans 5:13-14; Luke 1:68-79

Digging Deeper

For More Information

Talk Topics

From N.T. Wright: This passage poses an important challenge for the church: Are our churches, in the sort of life they lead, posing the kind of challenge to the power of evil which provokes a reaction?

As Advent approaches, we wait and anticipate Jesus coming again. What is the most difficult part of waiting for you?

What is one thing that God is calling us to believe or do as a result of hearing today's message?

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Discuss these with your family or missional community this week.

- How did you see God at work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

Further Study and Discussion throughout the week

Use the following passages and questions to explore additional Biblical insights about your heart.

Monday-Friday—*Ephesians 3:14-21*

Paul says he is praying for the church so they would not be discouraged because he is in prison. How do you deal with your own discouragement or the discouragement of others?

How would you describe what the 'glorious riches' are that God uses to strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit? When has God given you encouragement?

In your own words, write down a reflection on what it means to have Christ dwell in your hearts through faith? What might the Holy Spirit show us how that would look at LCM?

Describe something you know that has healthy roots. How do you know? Paul tells us that we are rooted and established in love. Why is that important for us to remember?

If you could ask God for anything, what would it be? Does Paul suggest that God is going to use the church to answer that in ways that exceed our expectations and imagination? How do you respond to that?

Saturday—**As you prepare for Advent, spend the day praying for a deeper understanding of how the church is called to reveal God's wisdom in the world.**