

Pastor Jason Mecum | Render Unto Caesar | 11.10.2024
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

This morning, Pastor Jason Mecum's message focused on Hope. He spoke about times we need hope, times others needed hope and how they found hope, and ultimately where we find our hope. We often spend our days blinded by the busyness of the day-to-day. When storms hit, we can be blindsided and thrown into feelings of hopelessness and helplessness. We lose a sense of peace we may not even have noticed we had. Many times, these storms and periods of peace shape us and define our experiences in life.

- What storms have defined your life?
- What times of peace have defined your life?
- Are you currently at peace or in the midst of a storm?
 - Do you think it will change the way you think, feel, or the trajectory of your life?
- How do you cope during storms? (Ignore it, Pray, Anger, Sadness, Seek counsel or friendship)
 - Who do you turn to?
- What do you do during times of peace?
 - Do you notice when you are at peace? Who do you share these times with?

Pastor Jason said "Hope is what allows us to endure the storm long enough to find a way back to peace."

- Who/what do you put your hope in?
- Do you think you misplace (or have misplaced) your hope?
- How do you know you are back at a place of peace?

Many people felt hopeless before, during, or immediately after the election.

- What has brought you hope during these moments where you could have felt hopeless?

Pastor Jason spoke about Molly Worthen, and said "The blinders had fallen off. Molly now read the Gospels with fresh eyes and saw them for what they were: the testimonies of regular people who witnessed something extraordinary that they couldn't completely understand but desperately tried to document." Molly's eyes were opened while researching to disprove Christianity. The disciples and followers were changed by the storms and peace they experienced and she too, was changed by what she experienced.

- Think about something that has happened to you, that has shaped who you are today.
 - Where do(did) you see God was at work in that situation?
 - Was it a time of peace or during a storm?

Matthew 22:20-22 ESV "20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away."

Genesis 1:26 ESV "26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

We know everything belongs to God. Jesus said "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" We are His. We bear His image.

- What are some things that belong to this world that we need to leave behind? (hate, confusion, division, death, sin, chaos, pain and more)
- Do you give God what is His?
 - Do you spend time with Him?
 - Do you give Him your heart? Your mind? Your first and best?
 - Or do you give Him your last and leftovers?
 - What does it look like to give God your heart, mind, and everything you have/do? Share (or think about) ways you can give God all of you.

GoDeeper



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

Pastor Jason reminded us we are made in God's image and asked "How valuable then are you that the Creator has placed His own image on you." Do you believe it? Do you feel it? Think of all the beautiful and amazing things the Creator has made...and know He finds you to be more beautiful, and values you more than any of those places or images.

- What gives you hope?
- What has been obstructing your view of God and His hope?
- How can you remove the obstruction to see clearly?

Take off the blinders, find your hope, peace, and purpose in God, who created you in His image and loves you more than you can imagine.