

MARCH 22, 2020



NORTHWOODS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MASTER PLAN VOTE

We want to let you know the results of last Sunday's vote to proceed with Phase 1 of our Master Plan. We're excited to inform you there was a 95% vote for proceeding with the building project. However, we are delaying our fundraising for that project until after the Coronavirus crisis subsides. We will keep you informed about the future of the project!

SECRET CHURCH

We are still planning to move ahead with the Secret Church simulcast on April 24th @ 6:00 pm. You will be able to watch the simulcast online from home, so if you want to participate, we'll give you a link to watch and provide a book for your notes. The cost is: \$10 and if you'd like to register, you can do so online at our website. **Books have not been shipped from Radical yet**, and we will let participants know when they arrive.

NORTHWOODS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER SERVICES?

We'll be getting information to you about our Easter plans as soon as we have them. Quite honestly, a lot of things are up in the air at this time, but we will let you know as soon as we can. At this point, our Easter Egg Hunt has been cancelled, and we'll be communicating about how the services will work as soon as we can.

RESPONDING TO THE SERMON

If God has been dealing with your heart and you would like to respond to the sermon, you can respond in several ways. You can text Pastor Darin at this number: 317-979-2080. Or if you are on our website, you can go to the "About" link, and click on "Staff." There is a link there where you can email any of our staff and they would love to schedule a time to meet with you.

GIVING BY TEXT

We also have the capability for you to give through a text. It's pretty simple to do. You just put this phone number in your phone: 812-214-1987. Text the word, "GIVE" and then just follow the prompts. If you're going to give that way regularly, you might just save that as a Contact for Giving. 812-214-1987.

LET NORTHWOODS HELP!

We've had several church members offer to volunteer to take groceries to those in need, to provide meals for anyone who is hungry, to do childcare for kids and so forth. **We have not received any requests for help at this time.** However, we just wanted to communicate it again: **If there are ways that we can serve you during this time, please let us know.** Call the church office at (812) 402-4954 or text any of the pastors. Our church body wants to be of service to you if there is a need.

GIVING ONLINE

To give through the website, you can go to the Home page and click on "Giving." Or you can put in the words: www.northwoodschurch.org/giving. That will take you to a page where you can click on a green button that says, "Give Online." You can just follow the prompts from there.

SERMON QUESTIONS

Some of you may be looking to engage with the sermon more than what we've done here. We've developed some questions for this sermon that you can work through individually or with others who've watched the sermon with you. That resource is in the "Resource" section of our website. Go to the Home page and click on "Resources" and then "Sermon Resources." There are some questions to guide you to think more deeply through the passage we just studied.

NORTHWOODS CHURCH

SERMON QUESTIONS

FOR MARCH 22, 2020

Opening Question:

Share a time that you remember agonizing over a major decision. How did you finally make your decision?

Digging into the Passage:

At this time in history, it was against Roman law to proclaim yourself “Messiah” because it was considered to be treason. The punishment for breaking this law was death. What does this tell us about the Roman view of what a Messiah was? How does this help explain Pilate’s interest in Jesus?

Why was it so important for Matthew to establish that Jesus was innocent?

What is Pilate’s overriding concern in this trial: Identifying the Messiah? Hearing out Jesus? Exchanging prisoners? Doing justice? Appeasement?

Is Pilate more concerned about appeasing the crowd? Or his wife? Or his conscience? Why? In this regard, how do his actions compare with that of the high priests (vv. 1-4)?

When Pilate offers the crowd a prisoner exchange, who does he expect them to choose? How concerned is Pilate that Jesus is innocent? Who usually pleads their innocence at a trial? Who does at this one? Who in this story was ultimately on trial?

What does it teach us about following the crowd when they choose the release of a clearly guilty man over that of One Who is clearly innocent? A day earlier, the crowd was singing Jesus’ praises and laying palm branches before Him. What cautions should we heed in regard to following the crowd? How can we avoid having a “mob mentality” ?

Application Questions:

When, if ever, have you been caught up in the enthusiasm of a crowd and done what you would have preferred not to do? How can you more effectively be your own person?

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being easiest, 10 being the most difficult), how difficult is it for you to accept responsibility?

Who is most pitiful in this story: Pilate, Pilate’s wife, the crowd, or the chief priests and religious leaders? Why?