

1. Get Acquainted and Icebreaker: Lamb or Wolf, You Choose

A Laboring Lamb: Jesus sends us out as a laboring Lamb. Luke 10:3 **“Go your way: behold, I am sending you out as *lamb*s in the midst of wolves.”** It is like Jesus is saying, “Go ‘lamb it’! Hey, NO wolfing out there. We will have none of that.” So the Christian’s only option is to be a lamb and get wolfed but in my sin and faithlessness I wolf so I don’t get wolfed or I wolf the lambs. Ugh!

- When did you get ‘lambed’ this week?
 - When did you ‘lamb it’ this week?
- When did you get ‘wolfed’ this week?
 - When did you wolf this week?
- Who do you need to go and seek their forgiveness? Who do you need to forgive?

2. Worship: Worship the Lamb slain by reading Revelation 5.

Let the triumph of the Lamb and the faithfulness of our Father win you to “Lamb Labor Livin”.

Revelation 5 [1] Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. [2] And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” [3] And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, [4] and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. [5] And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

[6] And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. [7] And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. [8] And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
[10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

[11] Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, [12] saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

[13] And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

[14] And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped. (ESV)

3. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Following Tim’s Lead!

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD Almighty for His loving-kindness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that with all of His power He is nevertheless gentle of heart.
2. How have you lived harshly, or even meanness to those who fail to live up to your standards? Confess your pride and distorted values to Jesus, *asking Him to forgive you and restore you to live in line with His grace.*
3. Give thanks to Jesus for the miracle of His mercy, to meet you at your very worst with gentleness rather than cruelty. Thank Him that “a bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench.”
4. Who do you know that has been mistreated by others, especially in the midst of their weakness? Pray for them, asking the Lord to reveal to them His love and gentleness – even as He uses you to show them.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and gentleness. Read Matthew 11:27-30, and pray for His power at work in you to transform you to be gentle and lowly of heart, like Jesus

4. Sermon Reflection:

Proclamation of God’s Word

Text: Matthew 12:9-21 (ESV)

Title: The Instincts of Jesus: Gentleness **Teacher:** Tim Rice

⁹ He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³ Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. ¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

Introduction: When you have you been treated harshly (without gentleness)?

Jesus’ Radical Values

- Jesus radical or “root” value of each person is their being created in God’s image.
 - In the story the man with the withered hand is de-valued to less than sheep.
 - Who do you treat as worth-less?
 - Where do you know yourself to be cruel?
 - How have others treated you as worth less and with cruelty?
 - How is Jesus’ instinct to gentleness different than yours?

His Amazing Gentleness

- Jesus yokes up or links to us to bear our burden.
- Jesus meets our violence with his gentleness and kindness.
- When were you about to break and your flame about to go out and Jesus met you with kindness? What is your favorite part of Jesus’ gentleness?

Our Call to Image Him – where is it hard for you to be gentle and kind? Ask God to Work

- Love from God - God is love and gentleness is God’s to give by Holy Spirit.
 - Ask God by saying please change me. Do in me what I can’t.
 - Redirect our Trust: Turn from our perspective to His Control and Love
- Love for our Neighbor
 - Kindness: noticing and meeting others needs rather than your own
 - You cannot be rough and trusted by a cat or a person.
 - Who is God calling you to love with gentleness?
 - Who is God moving you to ask Him to give a gentle spirit?

5. Mission: Souls on MISSION and at Rest- Using *REST-o-METER*

Mission Central, The Throne Room of God, a learning Center! Jesus tells us that there is rhythm, practice or protocol to know the ways of God and find “rest for your souls” while you work as a lamb. Jesus offers Himself as your trainer, teacher.

Matthew 11:28-30 **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

A Resting Lamb Among Wolves: Getting Yoked UP!

1. Come to Jesus.
 2. Receive his gift of rest
 1. Take His Yoke On YOU
 2. Learn From Jesus
 3. You will find Rest for your Souls
 4. Cuz his yoke is easy and His burden is light –
 5. The Measure of the REST-o-Meter = Easy Yoke, Light Burdens
- Where is your heart sick with Restlessness?
 - The REST-O-METER - The test of a rested soul, ease and lightness,
 - So what is the cause of your restless soul?
 - Lets go to Jesus
 - Take His Yoke
 - Learn
 - Rest
 - Test:
 - Is His yoke easier?
 - Is His burden lighter?
 - If not, go through the “resting lamb protocols again and again and again till you find ease and rest.