



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2010

Message: Making Monday Marvelous: Sunday = Messiah

We are drawing near the end of our Making Monday Marvelous series.

Today, on the fiscal week calendar, is Sunday.

It also happens to be Sunday; tomorrow is Monday.

So how have your Mondays been lately?

Have they been marvelous?

Have they been just okay?

Have they been uninspiring?

The point of this journey is that we often dread Mondays.

I would like to make a case that Mondays should be marvelous.

We have a work week ahead to interact in one another's lives.

Do you want to be involved in other people's lives?

Do you want other people involved in your life?

Would your life be better if you were more involved?

Would the lives of others be better if you were more involved?

I've lived in a curious neighborhood.

I'm not willing to share in this venue some of the happenings over 15 years.

It seems like a quiet area when you drive through.

But some bad things have occurred there.

Bad things happen in every neighborhood.

It is messy being involved in other people's lives.

Last fall we asked OSLC members a few questions.

Would you read the Bible more in 2010 – yes.

Would you pray more in 2010 – yes.

Would you give more money to the mission of Jesus in 2010 – yes.

Would you share your faith more in 2010 – nope.

Do you really prefer not knowing your neighbors and vice versa?

Do you really prefer having only shallow conversations with friends/acquaintances?

My hunch is many of us want more out of life than we are getting.

I see people shooting themselves in the foot all the time.

We cut off our nose to spite our face.

Just stop it; don't blame anyone else.

I suggest you take a risk and give Jesus a try.

Jesus will take you out of the norm, and that is uncomfortable at times.

That is why his hometown folk couldn't handle the Messiah Jesus.

Keep life as normal, be the small town kid made good and just add miracles.

Life doesn't work that way – it gets messy, risky.

As I see it, we always have a choice – status quo or follow Jesus.

Jesus never resides with the status quo; It's sort of let's make a deal.

You have a life now, are you willing to trade it in for the big deal of the day?

There is no threat of a zonk here though – you will get the big deal of the day.

But you don't know what it looks like which is scary.

And Jesus says following him is taking up a cross.

The Romans at Jesus' time executed people on a cross.

Have you seen movies about the brutality of people in that time frame?

Even the Romans eventually would end crucifixions for being too cruel.

I think we have a big problem in our society – we want our cake and eat it too.

We see it all the time – take politics.

We want more services and we want fewer taxes.

You can't do both – so which is it going to be?

In life, we want individual luxury and a sense of purpose and meaning beyond ourselves.

You can't do both – so which is it going to be?

Most of us make enough money to live a life of relative ease.

Jesus doesn't speak fondly about such a lifestyle.

You live a life with not too many problems, and then you die.

Jesus promises purpose that not only gives meaning to life now.

But it will transcend death itself and live on for posterity.

You can't do both – so which is it going to be?

I suggest you take the deal of following Jesus.

I know it is a difficult decision – you might be tempted to throw Jesus off of a cliff.

A couple years down the road, Jesus will make this dilemma most clear.

People thought that Jesus was a nice teacher who did miracles.

But his mission turned out to be far more profound.

Not just personal and finite; But universal and eternal.

Luke 4 is the best place to find out what the mission of Jesus is as the Messiah.

The vast majority of people decided against the mission of Jesus.

They quit following him and Jesus was mostly left with the inner 12.

And one of those 12 would be party to Jesus' execution for some money.

Jesus asked his followers if they would desert him like all the others.

The answer was that Jesus had the words of eternal life.

If you want greatness now, follow your own path.

If you want eternal greatness, follow Jesus.

So which is it going to be?

When those eleven finally decided to follow Jesus, their lives took on amazing passion.

Their lives were driven by love and they experienced profound joy.

They would encounter some opposition and struggle.

But not one of them came close to backing out on following Jesus.

This is a great journey; Monday can be the best day of your life.

God is making things right in His kingdom and you can help.

Today, it is Sunday, this is your moment to decide the direction of life.

Is the life you plan out for yourself what you want?

Or is the life of following the Messiah/Christ/Anointed Jesus holding more promise?

Today, you will encounter people on Monday whose lives are messy.

What are you doing to do – follow everyone else or take a risk and follow Jesus?

If you follow Jesus, I believe you will have a marvelous Monday.