

# PILGRIM HOME CHURCH

## FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

Welcome back to a new season of Home Church! Introduce yourselves if there are guests joining.

1. What is your response to friends or others who say "what about the crusades?" or what about "...?"
2. What does the church look like to the world when Jesus gets hijacked?
3. How does Jesus get hijacked in a local church?
4. Why is this important to wrestle with if we are going to have peace with God through Jesus?
5. John 5:39-40 What is going on with this? What does this say about how Jesus could be hijacked today by religious folks? What else do you see/hear/feel in this text?

## PRAYER:

JANUARY 10, 2021

PILGRIM   
CHURCH

# WHEN JESUS GETS SAVES HIJACKED

What happens when the institutional church gets sucked into the wars and walls of religion and ideologies? This Sunday we name some evils done in the name of Christ . We also name these evils as fully in opposition to the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus did not come to build another version of the Kingdoms of the world...

### Matthew 7:16-20 (CEB)

*You will know them by their fruit. Do people get bunches of grapes from thorny weeds, or do they get figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, and every rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit. And a rotten tree can't produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, you will know them by their fruit.*

### OPENING STORY

Christianity has done horrible things! Judge a tree by its fruit Jesus(!) said. "If, according to Jesus, we can recognize a tree by its fruit, and if church history is the fruit of Jesus teaching, then should we not reject Jesus as the bad tree that has produced bad fruit?...Let me tell you what I told [my intelligent atheist host] that evening" (EOR 67).

PEACE WITH GOD

**BIG IDEA:** "The history of the church is not an example of Jesus' teaching bearing bad fruit, but of his teaching being completely ignored, rationalized, or trivialized - and that bearing bad fruit. Most people who are hostile toward Christianity realize that Jesus is not to blame. In fact, they rightly judge and condemn Christians in terms of what Jesus taught" (Cavey, EOR, 67).

#### EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE DOING TERRIBLE THINGS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

- Crusades
- The Inquisition
- Witch Hunting
- Infighting
- Distancing Luke 18

The Fundamentalist vs. Moderate Divides

#### CHRISTIANS AREN'T ALONE

- Islamic Terror
- Hinduism and Buddhism - Karma is inherently an endorsement of violence
  - "In a world controlled by karma, there is no mercy, only justice. Karma must be worked off, no matter how much suffering that takes, spread out over as many lives as necessary...Jesus clearly rejected the idea of karma (see Luke 13:1-15; John 9:1-3) while offering people God's complete forgiveness for all sin" (89).
- State Atheist Terror

Christians aren't fundamentalist ENOUGH! John 5:39-40

#### THE RADICAL REFORMERS

#### FINAL WORD