



— the Chapel at Seaside —

FROM THE TOWER

SPRING, 2024 | VOL 19 | PRAYER

Where are we headed?

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, before he had even all of his 12 disciples, he had a following. To kick off his public ministry we see Jesus take his position on a hill and begin to preach. We can read it in the gospel of Matthew and it is what we call, The Sermon On The Mount. It is 3 chapters of Jesus teaching the crowd what it looks like to follow after him, to live a life according to the Kingdom of God; and it sets up the rest of Jesus' public ministry. The Sermon On The Mount is one of the most important sermons ever given. It not only has impacted the followers of Jesus, but also has permeated the culture outside the church. If this seems to be a framework of how we are called to live, it would make sense we spend some time looking at what Jesus says.

For the next 3 months we are going to slowly journey through this famous sermon. Parts of it are encouraging, inspiring, comforting, and clarifying. Other parts of it are challenging, convicting, and difficult. It all deserves to be looked at, so that is exactly what we are going to do.

Join us through May, June, and July as we hear what Jesus prioritizes and what it means to us.

Bible Study

One thing we have learned in our lifetime of ministry is that Summer is for simplifying. As May comes to a close, we have 3 more weeks of Bible Study until we break for the summer. Here is what you need to know.

May Bible Study

Men 8:30am

Women 10:00

May 8 - Matthew 26

May 15 - Matthew 27

May 22 - Matthew 28

20's and 30's 8am

May 9 - Exodus

May 16 - Exodus

May 23 - Exodus

Summer Study

Men and Women
9:00am at the Chapel
June 19, 26, July 10, 17

THE BOOK OF
JAMES

20's and 30's -8am

June 20, 27, July 11, 18

EXODUS

EASTER AT THE CHAPEL

We know Easter was a month or so ago, but we are still reeling. If you joined us, you know that we had such a fun and wonderful morning. All the services were flooded with you and your families and we were so grateful you joined us. Shout out to everyone who sat in an uncomfortable place on Easter Morning! We see you and are so happy you stuck around.

We started the morning at 6:00am for the sunrise service. Somewhere around 2,000 of you joined us as the sun illuminated the sky and we celebrated the resurrected Savior.

We moved over to The Chapel for our 8:30 service where 580 of our closest friends joined us. We always warn that the 10:00 is the most crowded, but when we stopped counting at 1,200 even our greeters were shocked!

We hope that for whatever reason you found yourself with us on Easter morning, you were blessed by the presence of the Lord and got to taste and see that He is good. We pray that you experienced even just a glimmer of the hope, peace, and love that Jesus offers us. We never want our life faith journey to be a "one Sunday a year" exchange, but an every breath interaction. As I said in the last newsletter, as the Leadership of this church, we are not your relationship with Christ and could never be. You forge the way of familiarity and closeness with God. You choose how to spend your minutes and resources. We, however, can help train you with the tools necessary to build a beautiful life in Christ. Reach out anytime to us if you are looking for something specific. For now, you can check out page 5 *for some recommended reading to help with the summer slog.*

We have to say thank you for the volunteers who pulled off such a large and wonderful Easter morning. Our team shows up at 4:30am (some as early as 4:00) to make sure that the table is set for you to feel welcome. To all the crew, you are amazing and appreciated!





Next Generation Ministry for Kids and Families

Recently, we welcomed the newest staff member to our team to oversee our Next Gen. Ministry! We're excited to announce Michael Pratt and his wife, Lindsey, along with their precious son Caden. Here's what he has to say:

"We are so grateful for the warm welcome we have received! The Chapel at Seaside is such a special church and we are grateful to serve alongside such wonderful people. I have served in Student Ministries for the past 8 years and not only grateful, but also humbled by the opportunity to lead and impact children's lives here in Seaside. My aim is to help children learn WHO God is and equip families with tools to continue the necessary conversations that grow their relationship with the Lord. If we haven't met already, we'd love the opportunity to. Please feel free to text or call me at (703) 675-7017 or email at michael@thechapelatseaside.com. Thank you for being an incredibly welcoming church to call home!

- The Pratt Family



New Check-in and Pick-up

Since our Kids meet at the Seaside School, we are trying to make the Sunday morning experience seamless for our families.

Unless it rains, our families will check in kids (ages 5-6th grade) in the park across the street from the chapel in the park. The kids will be led by our leaders to the school when service starts and will be brought back to the park at 11:00 so parents do not have to walk from The Chapel to the school.

If it rains, Check-in and Pick-up will be at the Seaside School!

Planning for the summer...spiritually

If we aren't growing spiritually, there is a good chance we are drifting. Maybe not far, maybe just enough to make us complacent about things. Maybe our worry creeps up, our joy seems to fade, our self-control wilts, or our general outlook seems to just find the negative things in life and we lose sight of anything to be grateful for. If you don't live here with us, you most likely have visited...which is how you got on this email list. So, it's fair to say that you know what it looks like to see something drift away on the Gulf. Sometimes on a yellow flag day it's a slow drift, but on other days, that current takes grips and whoosh...out it goes. So it is with our spiritual lives.

In order to stay in the growth process, it is important to continue to learn and practice our faith.

As summer draws near, we think it's important to stay interested in your life in Christ as your rhythms may change!

Sometimes you need a good book that will keep pointing your eyes to the King and the Kingdom, but you also don't want anything toooo heady to take to the beach. Look, if anyone understands...it's me! I read all kinds of books, but it is important for my mind to make sure that I have something on hand that will strengthen my relationship with the Lord.

I want to recommend a few books you could pick up and have on hand for the summer.

but before I do, can I just say, I am a human being and I love a good story. I don't have to agree with everything I read 100%, and this is what discernment is for! But I read a lot and so I have decided to go out on a limb and let you know of a few books I have really enjoyed that are easier reads...and some resources that I think you may enjoy.

First of all, we have pages on our website that will take you to resources for growing and learning in the practices of [Sabbath](#) and [Prayer](#). We hope you take advantage of both of these. There are book recommendations and if you haven't walked through the curriculum from Practicing the Way, we HIGHLY recommend you take advantage of it. We are beyond grateful for the work of [Practicing the Way](#) and the [Bible Project](#) for resources that are free, beautiful, and full of TRUTH.

First of all, if you haven't read either [Practicing the Way](#), or [Ruthless Elimination of Hurry](#) by John Mark Comer. These are 2 books that Andrew and I will continue to recommend until you inform us that everyone has read them and we should stop telling you that you should!

This last January I was working through a study with She Reads Truth called [Everything New](#). It was such a beautiful look at God restoring and redeeming all things. At the same time, My parents were visiting and I picked up a book my mom had with her that a friend had given her. It was called, [Imagine Heaven](#) by John Burke. This book, frankly, got me excited about Heaven and I felt like I could Imagine Heaven in a way that was more glorious than I could have ever considered. I mentioned this to a friend who suggested that I check out [Room of Marvels](#) by James Bryan Smith. If you are suffering grief from losing someone, or would love to take a walk through a fictional work that came out of someone's contemplative time with God, you should pick it up. It was a quick read and I loved it. If you are interested in other stories like these, check out [The Great Divorce](#) by CS. Lewis.

If you want something that will take you on a culinary journey through important foods mentioned in scripture, read [Taste and See](#) by Margaret Feinberg. It is so fun and a light read!

If anyone wants to meet up and talk about any of these, I would LOVE that.

Happy Reading,

Sarah Beard