

Sunday, September 24, 2017

THE FIRST DISCIPLES



Lessons from the Master

James (Son of Alphaeus) & Judas (not Iscariot) • John 14:15-27

Coming Up at MDPC

All-Church Lunch on World Communion Day

To celebrate World Communion Day, come indulge in the flavors of Brazil. Get adventurous with selections including a *churrasco* of *picanha* & chicken skewer, *dulce de leche* ice cream, salad with hearts of palm, and fun beverage options like Guaraná Antártica and cashew juice. **Sunday, October 1 | 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**
Full menu and more: food.mdpc.org

MDPC Dads Coffee & Kolaches

Are you a dad, granddad, expectant father...? You deserve a kolache! Stop by next Sunday for a Czech treat, and bring your kids to snap a picture in front of our photo booth. Lots of fun props will make the pic a great accent for your desk, bedside stand, or inside of your tackle box. **Sunday, Oct. 1 | 10:45-11:30 AM | Sanctuary Breezeway**
More about MDPC Dads: dads.mdpc.org

National Night Out

Meet your Memorial Villages police officers, fire department, and local area government entities. Ask questions, learn about services offered to residents, and get to know your neighbors to help build a stronger, safer community. The festivities will include food and music!
Tuesday, Oct. 3 | 5:00-8:00 PM | MDPC Parking Lot

Join Pastor Alf as a Partner In Prayer

Through MDPC's Partners In Prayer program, thousands of people are prayed for every day. God uses the power of this quiet ministry to bring health, life, and peace to our church family. **Visit our table on Sign-up Sundays, October 15-22!**
Online registration opens soon at pip.mdpc.org.

New Discipleship Groups Are Forming

Join a weekly discipleship small group this fall to study the Bible with the intention of creating disciples of Jesus who subsequently disciple others. This may be just what you need to grow in Christ post-Harvey!
Mondays, 12:30-2:00 PM Couples Group (at MDPC)
Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM Co-ed (meets in Galleria area)
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM Men's Group (at MDPC)
Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM Co-ed (at MDPC)
If you are interested, contact Jeanmarie Tade (jtade@mdpc.org) or Bart Henson (bartshenson@gmail.com).

Concert Series 2017-2018 Opener

MDPC and the Houston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to welcome Katelyn Emerson for the season opener. Katelyn is an internationally award-winning organ virtuoso who has won many accolades and prizes in her young career. The concert is open to the community and admission is free. **Sunday, October 8 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary**
Details: concerts.mdpc.org

The Well Women's Speaker Series: "Pursued"

As women, we long to be pursued. But we don't always feel worthy. Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages to connect. Hear a panel of real women tell their stories of God's relentless love. **Wednesday, Oct. 18 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel**
Join us for refreshments at 6:00 in the Parlor.
RSVP: thewell.mdpc.org

Jump Into Bible Study Discussion (BSD)

BSD is about more than Biblical teaching and a closer walk with Jesus (though it has those, too!). It also offers friendships, support, a deeper prayer life. It's not too late to join us for the 2017-2018 study, *The Word Made Flesh*. **With 5 day/time options, BSD fits almost any schedule!**
Details and registration: bsd.mdpc.org

Hoop It Up!

Boys and girls (pre-K through 9th grade) are invited to play in the Kingdom Basketball League of area churches. Practices begin the week of Nov. 27 at MDPC. You must register through MDPC if you want to practice at MDPC! **Games at area churches: Saturdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 17**
Registration (\$150) closes Nov. 19: sports.mdpc.org

ECO National Gathering in Houston: Renovate

The theme "Renovate" is saying God wants ECO to be more than a re-creation of the way denominations always have done things: He is calling us to renew, revitalize, and *renovate* how we approach our congregations, our covenant communities, and our hearts. MDPC members are encouraged to attend. Early-bird rates last through Oct. **Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 23-25 | Hilton Americas**
Details and registration: econationalgathering.org

The Living Well

A Study of Jesus through the Gospel of Mark



This year brings an all-new study led by Charlotte Crawford.

MDPC Women

An early-morning Bible study for women of all ages and stages of faith.

Begins this Wednesday, September 27

Details & registration: tlw.mdpc.org



MDPC

Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

8:30 AM BLENDED - 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WELCOME		Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Rick Myers (8:30), Tara Reynolds (9:45)
SONG OF RESPONSE		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	The First Disciples: James (Son of Alphaeus) & Judas (Not Iscariot)	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

Musicians in these services: Uvaldo Callejas, bass • Meliza Gómez, worship leader • George Heathco, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Michael Middleton, worship leader • Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Sonata No. 1</i>	Felix Borowski (1872-1956)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Let All the World in Every Corner Sing</i>	William Mathias (1931-1992)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Crown Him With Many Crowns</i>	#151; Vs. 1, 2, 4 DIADEMATA
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Rick Myers
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from The Apostles' Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>If You Love Me</i>	Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
OFFERTORY	<i>Canticle of Faithfulness</i>	Daniel Bird (b. 1956)
MESSAGE	The First Disciples: James (Son of Alphaeus) & Judas (Not Iscariot)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	#101; Vs. 1, 4 HAMBURG
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist

IF YOU'RE VISITING TODAY, please take a moment to stop by the Connection Center, located in the Lobby of the Sanctuary. The folks there would love to meet you, give you a free gift, and answer any questions you may have.

PRAY FOR MDPC MINISTRY PARTNERS

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

Prison Entrepreneurship Program connects business executives and prison inmates in a life-transforming program that fosters entrepreneurial passion through education and mentoring. Participants begin the program while still incarcerated, and continue to receive support and encouragement after their release.
pep.org

Pro-Vision ministers to disadvantaged youth and academically struggling students, on a multipurpose campus in the Sunnyside neighborhood that includes a cultivated farm, nature trail, and sports field. The kids' self-perception improves through Pro-Vision's emphasis on social skills, self-awareness, and a solid work ethic.
provisionschool.org

Berea Bible Institute is a small Bible college in Monterey, Mexico, that began as one family's dream to educate young leaders in Scripture. Students are ingrained with a love of service and of teaching others to serve. Graduates are sent to lead churches in remote parts of Mexico, teaching the sacrificial love of Christ by example.
institutoberea.org

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

Food Drive: Standing water and mold has turned mucking out into a job for pros. MDPC is staying in touch with affected families to try to determine where and how we all can help. Stay informed about ongoing efforts and what you can do at harvey.mdpc.org.

Affected Families & Individuals: If you need a hand with clean up, reach out to Beverly Fluke (bfluke@mdpc.org).

Relief Fund: Donations have become more important than ever as homes and lives are rebuilt. To give a designated Harvey Relief gift, visit give.mdpc.org.

THE WHITE ROSE IS IN MEMORY OF

Amy Burnett-Combs, who passed away August 18, 2017.
Lyn Flynt, who passed away August 25, 2017.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 6,003,433
Actual Income to Date (Sept. 17, 2017)	\$ 5,719,967
Current Income Deficit	\$ 283,466
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 5,680,033
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 389,186

Next Sunday, **October 1**, MDPC's collecting these items for MDPC Fuente and East Spring Branch Food Pantries:

- Canned Corn
- Canned Diced Tomatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup and Meals (Chili, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
- Plastic Jars of Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna

To learn more about MDPC's fight against childhood hunger and food insecurity, visit hunger.mdpc.org.

NO open, homemade, or expired items.
NO glass containers!

HUNGER INITIATIVE
FIGHTING CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN HOUSTON

Please bring items in brown paper grocery bags!



THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Lessons from the Master

James (Son of Alphaeus)
& Judas (not Iscariot)

John 14:15-27 • Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the fifth in a series of sermons on learning discipleship by seeing how Jesus called, challenged, and inspired *The First Disciples*. Today we look at two more apprentices of Jesus: James the Son of Alphaeus, and Judas—not Iscariot. James is the apostle that we know the least about from the Bible. The New Testament says nothing but his name. In Mark’s Gospel (15:40), he is called James the Less (*micros*, meaning “the short one,” “the little one”). That is one of the worst nicknames possible. The other Gospels call him James, Son of Alphaeus. Track with me for a moment: Matthew in Mark’s Gospel is called Levi, Son of Alphaeus. Therefore Matthew the Tax Collector and James most likely are brothers. Matthew, who we looked at last week, was in league with Rome; James most likely is a Zealot, from the way he is placed by the other zealots in the lists of the original twelve. So they are brothers who have come to the opposite conclusion regarding how to respond to Rome. They have drifted apart and may even hate each other. But they are brought back together by Christ. Jesus came not only to reconcile us to God, but to each other.

Enough about James; now to Judas.

1. Judas is called Thaddeus in Mark’s Gospel. In Matthew, he is referred to as Lebbaeus, which means *breast-child* or *heart-child*. I would paraphrase “mama’s boy.” There are no stories about this Judas in Matthew, Mark, or Luke. There is one in John. Read John 14:15-27.
2. Jesus is preparing the disciples for His death and the mission of the Great Commission after He returns to the Father. In John 14, Jesus introduces the idea of the Holy Spirit, and that His followers will not be alone. In verses 15-17, what is Jesus’ definition of love of Him? And what are the attributes of the Spirit, as described by Jesus in these verses?
3. Verses 18-21 continue the dialogue. What is repeated? (Note: Jesus has no “throwaway” lines. He repeats to emphasize, so we don’t miss the most important concepts.) Is anything new added?
4. In verse 21, Judas (not Iscariot) asks a profound question in the middle of Jesus’ teaching. Is his question clear? How would you paraphrase it? What do you think he is really asking Jesus to answer?
5. In verses 23-26, Jesus answers Judas’ question. As I asked in question 3, what is repeated? Is there anything new?
6. It is as if Judas is worried about how the world will get transformed if Jesus is not around. Jesus seems to be saying, “I am going to take over the world one heart at a time. Do I have yours? Keep my words individually, and we’ll get to the world together, with the help of the Spirit that the Father will send.” Where do you need to stop worrying about the *macro level* and follow Jesus in the *micro areas* of life? And let me go from preaching to meddling. If verses 15 and 21 and 24 define love as keeping God’s commandments/words of Jesus, where can you show God love today and this week?

