

GROWTH GROUPS

October 7, 2012

Matthew 3:13-4:11

Conversation Starter –

Name a leader who has been influential in your life. Why did they have such great influence?

Understanding –

As Matthew continues to introduce the reader to Jesus as king it is important to introduce how he will lead. Jesus' baptism and temptation are introductory illustrations meant to demonstrate that Jesus is a leader who will lead "from the front;" getting intimately involved in the lives of people.

1. Most who lead, do so from the rear. Leading from the rear is clean and safe. Like the general who gives orders from a faraway hill, those who lead from the rear risk very little, personally. Many perceive God in this way; a far removed deity who demonstrates little interest in the life of an individual. What statements of God have you heard or held that align with this perception?
2. In Jesus, Matthew introduces us to a king who leads from the front. Leading from the front is dangerous and dirty, it puts the leader at personal risk. In the accounts of the baptism and temptation, how is Jesus introduced as a leader who leads from the front?
3. Leading from the front is inspirational. How does Jesus' leadership inspire you to follow him?
4. If we are setting apart Jesus as king and following, then we will risk danger and get dirty as he does. What might this practically look like as we serve him?

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