

Margaritaville City Limits

May 14, 2017

1. Many people around us _____ in Margaritaville.

Matthew 9:36 ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.***

2. Fulfillment is found in _____.

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

John 14:6 ***Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***

3. Margaritaville borders on the _____.

Isaiah 6:5a ***"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, ..."***

I John 1:8-9, ***8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

Matthew 4:17 ***From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."***

4. Our job is to _____ people to come across the Margaritaville City Limits.

Matthew 9:36-38 ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*** (See Matthew 10:1, 5-8)

Ezekiel 3:17-19 ***"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 18 When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 19 But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.*** (See also Ezekiel 33:1-7)

5. _____ hang out in Margaritaville, too.

Matthew 23:25-28, 25 ***“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.***

27 ***“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.***

6. _____ is found in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 6:6-7 ***Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”***

Psalms 51:10 ***Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

I John 1:7 ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.***

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- I know this is an unusual way to start a sermon, but listen to both the music and the words.
- Sing “Margaritaville” with the band.
- True Calypso music is a happy tune with sad lyrics. (cf. *De-O*: Work all night on a drink of rum, 8 ft. bunch, black tarantula)
- Margaritaville: Wastin’ away. Tattoo. Booze in the blender is what helps me hang on.

1. Many people around us live (exist) in Margaritaville.

- Our first impression is that they’re just fine.
- But like with a Calypso, if we listen closely we hear the hollow echo of empty lives.
- Addictions, broken families, bitterness, disappointment, doubt, disease ...
- Like Brian Cole used to sing, “People Need the Lord”

Matthew 9:36 ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.***

2. Fulfillment is found in Jesus Christ.

John 10:10 ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.***

John 14:6 ***Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”***

- Eternal life and Abundant life.
- Gospel.
- Potiphar’s wife. She got away with her sin, Joseph paid the price.

Likewise, Jesus paid the price for your sins and mine.

- Abundant life is a vibrant, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- When life isn't working for you and it has you off kilter, check that relationship.
- You may lose your job or your money or your home or even a loved one.
- But if you lose *hope*, or *joy* or *love* or *peace*, check your relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. Margaritaville borders on the Kingdom of God.

- It's nobody's fault → It just could be my fault → It's my own fault → (The next step is ...)

Isaiah 6:5a ***“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, ...”***

I John 1:8-9, ***8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (It's nobody's fault) 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (It's my own fault: Mea culpa)***

Matthew 4:17 ***From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”***

- I cleaned up the lyric, but what Jimmy Buffet wrote was right

4. Our job is to invite people to come across the Margaritaville City Limits.

Matthew 9:36-38 ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”***

(See Matthew 10:1, 5-8) ***Jesus called his twelve disciples to***

him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ... 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

- *Two weeks ago I preached on Ezekiel 2:5 **And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.***
- *Watchman.*

*Ezekiel 3:17-19 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 18 When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 19 But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself. (See also Ezekiel 33:1-7) **The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head. 5 Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed***

the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone's life, that person's life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.'
7 *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.*

- We can't make people cross the border. Kidnap them etc.
- We shouldn't trick them or lure them.
- But we must invite them!
- Preachers in the Court of Louis XIV, Jacques Bossuet and Louis Bourdaloue.

Courageous preachers whose excellent sermons seem to have had little effect.

We are not responsible for how people respond, but we are responsible to take advantage of the incredible privilege to invite them!

- Hand out Cards inviting people to the Pentecost Festival.
- Pray.
- Be prepared to share your faith and pray with people, especially at the Pentecost Festival.

5. We hang out in Margarittaville, too.

Matthew 23:25-28, 25 ***"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.***

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the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

- **“Calypso Christians”**
- Many Christians are pious on the outside, but worldly on the inside.
- We absorb the culture around us. It’s values, it’s doubts ...
- Abide in Christ.
- **Daily devotions.**
- Obedience (= Cooperation with His good ways).

6. Cleansing is found in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 6:6-7 ***Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”***

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