



# The Message of Jesus

## He Spoke to Them in Parables

March 7 & 8, 2026

### Mark 4:34

He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

### Matthew 25:34-40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

### Message Notes

#### Lessons of Love in Three Parables:

Parable of the **Sheep and Goats** (*Matthew 25:34-40*)

Parable of the **Good Samaritan** (*Luke 10:25-37*)

Parable of the **Prodigal Son** (*Luke 15:11-32*)

#### Loving the Vulnerable Is:

1. **Active**
2. **Adaptable**
3. **Grace Upon Grace**

### Food for Thought

Jesus asks us to love those who are vulnerable, the hungry, the imprisoned, the sick, the stranger, the hurt. What are ways that you do or could actively care for those who are the least of these? (*See Matthew 25:34-40*)

Sometimes we have our own plans on how our days will go, and how even our faith will go. What is an example of how you may need to adapt or modify your plans to love those who are vulnerable (*See Luke 10:25-37*)

What does it mean that no matter who you are, what you've done, where you've been, or how you feel, God loves you extravagantly, right here right now? How can you take a moment to experience and sit in that love? How does that empower you to love others? (*See Luke 15:11-32*)

**STILL WATERS** exists to **FIND** the lost, **RELEASE** the captive and **DEVELOP** disciples of Jesus

Still Waters Church | 3617 Scenic Road, PO Box 406, Jackson, WI 53037 | 262-677-1311

Worship Hours: Saturday 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

### Happy Birthday!

March 8 Kyle Dedrick, Aaron Haas, Carter Haas, Sarah Pouzar

March 9 Katie Hoth, Sarah Jones, Adrienne Shill

March 10 Debbie Dembeck, Arriana Thomas

March 13 Juan Beltran, Cindy Ziegler

### Ushers

### Greeters

Saturday

5pm

Jan Giza

Sunday

9am

The Miles Family

The Miles Family

10:30am

Marc & Kim Bartusek

Paul & Heidi Sanders

Church Website



Online Giving



Still Waters Family,

Greetings, Still Waters family! Hey - did you know that this weekend is Daylight Savings? For some reason, it wasn't on my calendar, so I thought that might be true for others as well! For those of you who worship on Sunday, after we "spring forward," I'll see you Sunday! I hope your week has been going well, and that you sense God meeting you in the midst of any challenges. We continue to pray for peace in our world, even as war has begun in Iran. We continue our prayers for God's Kingdom to Come, God's will to be done, and on earth as it is in heaven! this weekend, we have much to pray about. We also will be continuing to learn and internalize the Message of Jesus as we continue our Lenten journey together. Did you ever notice how powerful stories are? Whether your friend is telling you a story of how wonderful prom was, or your child or grandchild is sharing a story from their day at school, or a person who felt outcast now feels included, or a story of how the vulnerable have been cared for. Stories are at the very heart of God's work in our world. Of course, one of Jesus' primary ways of teaching was through stories that we call parables. this weekend as we continue our Lenten series on the Message of Jesus, we will be looking at how Jesus used stories to convey some of the most powerful teaching and truths of life in God's Kingdom. I look forward to seeing you this weekend as we worship and connect!

A few notes about the upcoming opportunities, this week and beyond:

### **Family Support Group**

This group is a support group for people who have loved ones affected with addiction(s). Meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. here at Still Waters Church, it is a casual gathering to share experiences, thoughts, and feelings with others in your situation. **Next meeting is tonight, Thursday, March 5, at 5:00 p.m.** Come as you are and when you can. See Ron or Ann Naab with questions.

### **Spring Forward!**

This weekend Daylight Savings Time begins! Don't forget to set your 'manual' clocks ahead an hour Saturday night before you go to bed. We'll see you this weekend in worship!

### **New Members Class**

Mark your calendars if you've been thinking that Still Waters is the place you'd like to call your church home! We'll have a membership class **Sunday, March 8, from noon - 2:00 p.m.**, and then join the church the weekend of March 14/15. Contact Pastor Lori with questions or to sign up, or just register on our website!

### **The Flock, Sunday March 8, 5:00 p.m.**

#### ***Fellowship and Informational Meeting for Youth, Parents, and Siblings***

"The Flock" is the name given to a monthly gathering for an informational meeting for youth, parents, and siblings. Snacks available. Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

### **Tuesday Morning Study- The Road Less Traveled**

On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., **beginning March 10**, we will be studying the 'classic' book, "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck, M.D. The study will go for 15 weeks, and **conclude on June 16**. Together we will explore the nature of loving relationships and discover new serenity and fullness of life. We'll look at how to distinguish between dependency and love, how to become more sensitive parent, and ultimately how to become one's own true self. Book is \$12. Sign up on the Connection Card or online.

## **Wednesday Night Lenten Study Groups (and dinner)!**

### ***“The Message of Jesus”***

It's not too late to join our midweek study! This is an excellent opportunity to get to know some new people and dive deeper into your faith. We'll meet each Wednesday through March 25. Here's the Wednesday schedule:

- **6:00: Dinner (optional)** ready for you! This provides a quick and convenient alternative for families so you don't have to rush to get food before coming to church.
- **6:30: Video** shown in sanctuary. The video will intro the material to be discussed in small groups that night. It is based on the reading for that night.
- **6:45 - 7:45 pm: Meet in small study groups** in different areas in the church

Each adult study small group will be studying a book upon which the Lenten Sermon series is based. The book is “The Message of Jesus” by Adam Hamilton, (cost \$13 for the book and it is available at church.) More than three billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many actually know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said. In this five week study, we'll explore five main themes of Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. Jesus's message is not only life changing, but world-changing. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship, study, and digging deeper into our faith as we journey to the cross and resurrection with Jesus. Small group facilitators will be Marc and Kim Bartusek, Nancy Maier, Kelly Passineau, and Teresa Young. Sign up on our Connection Card or website.

## **Feeding America**

Join us on **Wednesday, March 11** (always the 2nd Wednesday of the month) at **1:00 p.m.** for this very important ministry to distribute food to those who are food insecure. On-the-job training is always available; we often have new volunteers each month, so no worries if it's your first time. We'd love to welcome you!

## **2026 Spring Confirmand Retreat: March 13-15**

Attention all youth being confirmed this May! We are excited to announce our Spring Confirmand Retreat. The retreat will take place from **Friday, March 13, at 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, March 15, at 1:30 p.m.** Our youth will attend the 10:30 worship service together that Sunday. After the service, we will enjoy some soup during Souper Sunday, followed by a confirmand/parent/mentor meeting. Please register using the Connection Card or on our website. Additionally, **peer mentors (high school youth) who would like to attend should see Lisa for an application** to join the Confirmand Retreat.

## **Souper Sunday, March 15, 11:45 a.m.**

Join us for Souper Sunday on March 15!... an awesome meal for our congregation, sponsored by our youth on the third Sunday of each month. Come warm up from the cold weather with the warmth of a great meal/intergenerational fellowship. Free will offering accepted, and proceeds will benefit our amazing youth ministry. Sign up on your Connection Card or website. Contact Lisa with questions.

## **Still Waters Women**

Calling all women... come on **Sunday, March 15**, and enjoy meeting with other women of all ages for planning and fellowship after the 2nd Sunday worship service, approximately 11:45 a.m. Sign up on the Connection Card or website.

### **Men's Breakfast, Wednesday, Marc 18, 8:30 a.m.**

Men are invited to this monthly men's breakfast, 3rd Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., meeting at a local restaurant (which switches from month to month). Contact John Haas at [jxhaas@yahoo.com](mailto:jxhaas@yahoo.com) or 262-617-7004 to sign up for this month's breakfast! (John calls the restaurant to make a reservation, so please contact him by Tuesday, March 17.)

### **IMPACT NIGHT: Sunday Evening, March 22**

Save the date: "Impact Night" is coming Sunday evening, March 22! All are invited to come on March 22, 6:00 p.m. and enjoy an awesome evening of fun questions, answers, prizes, dessert auction and more! We'll have questions geared for all ages, with categories such as "sink or float," and many other categories. Feel free to bring food to share with people at your table, or there will be subs, pizza and drinks available for purchase. Cost is \$25/person, or \$190 for a table of 8. Creativity encouraged- theme based tables will receive extra points! Come as individuals, or form your own team. All proceeds will benefit our awesome youth ministries! Sign up online or on the Connection Card.

### **Impact Night Different Ways to be Involved**

Lots of ways to be involved in Impact Night!

- Register your team table
- Donate items for the Silent Auction (theme baskets, cook meals, donate your time/skills, e.g. sewing, photography)
- Register to bring a dessert for the Dessert Auction (fancy desserts are great, but store-bought desserts are fine, too!)

Sign up online or on your Connection Card. Contact Lisa with questions.

### **Honduras Intergenerational Mission Trip July 11-18, 2026, More Details!**

We are so excited for our mission trip to Honduras, July 11–18, 2026! You are invited to come to Honduras, OR you can participate in the mission from home! Our mission this year is two-fold. If you come to Honduras, you will choose to be in either an **Education or Medical Focus Group**. No specific training or experience needed for either group. We also need people to be a part of the back home support group. Examples of how you can help from Wisconsin include being part of the VBS planning or sponsoring medical costs. As a **full team in country**, we'll spend time together worshipping, eating, laughing and experiencing Christ's amazing presence on the mission field. **Applications to go on the trip are due by February 22.** We can't wait to serve together!

**For more specifics continue reading:**

### **Education Focus Group (Contact: Lisa or Lori):**

We'll support Danli UMC in leading VBS at the School in the Carbonera Community—one of the highest-need schools. We'll also paint murals at our partner church; Central UMC in Danlí. We'll tour another public school and learn about a scholarship program that helps kids attend school. Even though public education is "free," the ability for families to afford uniforms and supplies can prohibit kids from actually attending.

### **Ways to help from Wisconsin:**

- **VBS Planning sessions**

Our First VBS Planning Session was awesome. We'll be adding additional Sundays to be announced. No education background is required. Sign up on the website or Connection Card.

### **Medical Focus Group (Contact: Debi Haas):**

Partnering with Honduran doctors, and a pharmacist we'll co-run a clinic providing preventive and urgent care.

### **Ways to help from Wisconsin:**

- **Sponsor a doctor or contribute financially toward supplies:** The cost for each Honduran doctor and each pharmacist is \$1,035. Minimum of one Honduran doctor and one Honduran pharmacist. Supplies are estimated to cost approximately \$2000. Donations can be made out to Still Waters Church, with "Honduran Doctor" or "Honduras Supplies" in the memo.
- **Amazon Registry (Amazon Scrip cards are also available)**

We have an Amazon registry! Feel free to purchase items for our mission using this link:

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/19RVI6ADLXDF3>

A great idea- **buy an Amazon Scrip card** from Still Waters in the lobby on Sundays or see Robin Olson. Using your Amazon Scrip card, you're also helping Still Waters Church in the process of also helping the Honduras mission!

### **Bring Supplies to church**

Additionally we will be collecting supplies at the church. We have a wish list for supplies, see attachment to this email or bulletin insert or lobby flyer. To be able to navigate customs, we will need to have all our meds/supplies by April. Contact Debi Haas at 262-617-5593 or [debihaas15@gmail.com](mailto:debihaas15@gmail.com).

We welcome your involvement—whether going to Honduras or supporting from home! Many hands make for powerful impact!

### **July Honduras 2026 Mission Trip Applications Available!**

The application to go on our July 11-18, 2026 Honduras trip is now online! We are SO excited! Go to <https://www.stillwaterschurch.com/honduras-mission-trip108735db> for more information or to apply.

### **EASTER JAM, Saturday March 28!**

Come join us for our Family Easter celebration called Easter Jam! This year we will be making **Resurrection Gardens** and enjoy an **Easter egg hunt!** Easter Jam will be on Saturday, March 28th. Come for a **meal at 11:30, activities from noon-1:30**. Thanks to our Still Waters Women or helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. This will be a fun and meaningful event!

### **Palm Sunday- Special Celebration with Still Waters Kids**

During our worship services on March 29, Our Still Waters Kids will be processing in with palms and leading us in worship with a special Palm Sunday song as we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.

### **VBS Planning Meeting**

We are continuing our planning for our Vacation Bible School this summer!. Even if you weren't able to join us for our first meeting, there is still a place for you to join the team! Lunch will be provided. March 29th from 12pm-1pm. Sign up on the Connection Card or online. Contact Jena if you have questions.

## Holy Week Schedule

As we continue to journey through the Lenten season, learning and growing as we consider the overarching themes in the Message of Jesus, we know many of you will begin to make plans for Holy Week and Easter! Below is the schedule of worship and other events. More detailed information will come as we get closer.

- **Palm Sunday weekend:** March 28/29
- **Maundy Thursday** Worship: Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday** Worship: Friday, April 3, noon
- **Easter Weekend** Worship: April 4/5
  - **Saturday, 5:00 pm**
  - **Sunrise Easter Sunday, 6:00 a.m.** (Youth led!)
    - **Easter Breakfast, 700 a.m.**
  - **Easter 9:00 am**
  - **Easter 10:30 am**

Looking ahead...

## Quest Camp

Quest camp is a remarkable, ridiculously fun, re-imagined way for youth groups and youth leaders to experience God, encounter Christ, grow closer as a group, and refocus!. Quest camp is for incoming 6th graders through seniors in High School, and this year will be June 21st - 26th. Quest camp includes Bible study and worship, an expansive high ropes course, climbing tower and zipline, amazing lakefront activities, and refreshing food and lodging. One of the greatest things about Quest is that our youth group and leaders attend together, creating a stronger fellowship bond within our youth group and experiences that create lifelong memories that deepen our faith journey. The cost per camper is \$350.00. Deposit of \$50 due by end of February, with \$100 due monthly after that. See Lisa for details, and sign up online or via the Connection Card.

Praying for peace, in our personal lives and in our world,

Pastor Lori