

RED LETTER INVITATIONS

FROM JESUS TO YOU



The words of Jesus have been read for generations. In many Bibles, these words are printed in red. Look closer at these timeless red letters, and you'll discover that they are personal invitations from Jesus to YOU, inviting you into the abundant life He has for you:

Come to Me

Follow Me

Take Up Your Cross

Store Up Treasures in Heaven

Love the Lord Your God

Go And Make Disciples

Love Your Enemies

Take and Eat

Rejoice and Leap for Joy

How will you respond?

Join us for the next 9 weeks at Mariners as we take a closer look at these *red letter invitations* from Jesus.

Come TO ME

Week 1 | Apr 10&11:

Come to Me (Matthew 11:20-24, 28-30)

An Unresponsive Generation

20 Then he proceeded to denounce the towns where most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent: 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes long ago. 22 But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until today. 24 But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

The Son Gives Knowledge and Rest

28 “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Reflection Question

What burden do you need to give to Jesus?

Follow ME

Week 2 | Apr 17&18:

Follow Me (Luke 9:57-62)

Following Jesus

57 As they were traveling on the road someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."
59 Then he said to another, "Follow me."

"Lord," he said, "first let me go bury my father."

60 But he told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God."

61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house."

62 But Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Reflection Question

How are you learning to trust Jesus more?

TAKE UP YOUR Cross

Week 3 | Apr 24&25:

Take Up Your Cross (Mark 8:34-38)

Take Up Your Cross

34 Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me and the gospel will save it. 36 For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? 37 What can anyone give in exchange for his life? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Reflection Question

Is there any area of your life that you are holding back from Jesus? Where might God want to bring abundance to that place?

STORE UP TREASURES IN Heaven

Week 4 | May 1&2:

Store Up Treasures in Heaven

(Matthew 6:19-24)

God and Possessions

19 “Don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness!

24 “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Reflection Question

Where is God alerting you to misplaced “treasure” on Earth instead of in Heaven?
What does it look like to “store up” heavenly treasure?

Love THE LORD YOUR GOD

Week 5 | May 8&9:

Love the Lord Your God

(Matthew 22:34-40)

The Primary Commands

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. 35 And one of them, an expert in the law, asked a question to test him: 36 “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?”

37 He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command. 39 The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

Reflection Question

What is God revealing to you about His love?

GO AND MAKE Disciples

Week 6 | May 15&16:

Go and Make Disciples

(Mark 5:1-20, Matthew 28:19-20)

Demons Driven Out by Jesus

1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. 3 He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain— 4 because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don’t torment me!” 8 For he had told him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

9 “What is your name?” he asked him.

“My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

11 A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. 12 The demons begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.” 13 So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

14 The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. 17 Then they began to beg him to leave their region.

18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. 19 Jesus did not let him but told him, “Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

The Great Commission

19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Reflection Question

What has the Lord done in your life that you can share with others?

Love YOUR ENEMIES

Week 7 | May 22&23:

Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-36)

Love Your Enemies

27 “But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don’t hold back your shirt either. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don’t ask for them back. 31 Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them. 32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Reflection Question

How have you experienced the mercy of God?

Whom do you need God’s help to love?

Take AND EAT

Week 8 | May 29&30:

Take and Eat (Matthew 26:20-26)

Betrayal at the Passover

20 When evening came, he was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 While they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

22 Deeply distressed, each one began to say to him, “Surely not I, Lord?”

23 He replied, “The one who dipped his hand with me in the bowl—he will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born.”

25 Judas, his betrayer, replied, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

“You have said it,” he told him.

The First Lord’s Supper

26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take and eat it; this is my body.”

Reflection Question

When we take communion we are asked to remember Jesus.

What qualities or acts of Jesus do you need to remember as we take communion today?

Rejoice AND LEAP FOR Joy

Week 9 | June 5&6:

Rejoice and Leap for Joy!

(Matthew 13:44-46, Luke 10:17-20)

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and of the Priceless Pearl

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. 46 When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it.”

The Return of the Seventy-Two

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

18 He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 “Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing at all will harm you. 20 However, don’t rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Reflection Question

What is it about the Lord that gives you the most joy?