

Sermon Study Guide

John 1:43-51

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Week of October 17, 2021

Title: "Wintonbury Values – Atmosphere"

Sermon Idea: We want to create a "hothouse" of transformation through an atmosphere of hospitality and authenticity.

Key Points:

1. **Hospitality:** We create spaces where people feel welcomed and valued. (Hebrews 13:1-2)
2. **Authenticity:** We encourage people to live with integrity by being honest in their relationships with God, themselves, and each other. (John 1:43-51)

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that for transformation to occur at Wintonbury, we need to create an atmosphere of hospitality and authenticity combined with the truth of God's Word.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) have a transparent accountability relationship, (2) change lifestyle to make space for others, (3) consider reaching out to Afghan refugees.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need to create an atmosphere where transformation can occur.

Recommended Resources: "A Church Called Tov," by Scott McKnight; "The Gospel Comes With a House Key," Rosaria Butterfield

Intro: Have you encountered "Christian Nice?" Describe it. How does it make you feel?

Dig:

Day 1: Hebrews 13:1-2 commands us to show hospitality. Define hospitality. Why is it such an important part of Christian community and witness?

Day 2: Genesis 18 describes Abraham's encounter with three strangers. Who were they? How did Abraham show them hospitality. What would Abraham have missed if he hadn't shown them hospitality?

Day 3: John 1:43-51 is the story of Jesus' meeting with Nathanael. What stands out about this conversation? How do you see hospitality and authenticity in this passage?

Day 4: Psalm 32 describes one who is "without deceit" (verse 2). What reward is there for those who are honest and open about who they are and what they've done?

Day 5: Matthew 22:15-18 depicts an interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees. How do the Pharisees interact with Jesus? How does Jesus respond? What does this tell us about how we are to interact with each other?

Apply:

1. Commit to meeting weekly with someone(s) who you can openly confess anything to.
2. Invite people different from you into your home; change your lifestyle to allow room for these new relationships.
3. Pray about taking part in the local effort to welcome Afghan refugees who are being resettled to Hartford.

Pray: Dear God, thank You for welcoming me to come to You even when I was far apart and even fighting against You. Help me to be welcoming and real with those who are seeking to find You. In Jesus' name, amen.
