

Sunday, March 17, 2019 - "A Church Without Curtains REMIX - Week 4" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: John 3:16-21, Hebrews 10:19-20, John 3:3b-4, Ezekiel 36:26

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Week 1: Jesus has given us full access to God - Week 2: We can't follow Jesus in isolation - Week 3: God is pursuing us and calling us out of hiding
- Do we really know the meaning of John 3:16? What is Jesus saying to us?
- John 3:16-20 is part of a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus (a pharisee)
 - Nicodemus is conflicted and confused (Jesus wasn't doing things the way he expected him to)
 - John 3:3b-4: Jesus is saying "you're missing the Spirit around you because the Spirit isn't in you"
 - Born again = made new
 - Nicodemus was asking, "Can a person really change?"
- Change is not only possible but it is HIS PURPOSE
 - We can be made new
 - Ezekiel 36:26
 - Radical transformation is possible
- John 3:16 is a promise of PRESENT TENSE life and victory
- Eternal life is not just about death
 - John 17:3 - eternal life is knowing God and knowing Jesus
 - Knowing God is transformational
 - Because God so loved the world
 - world = all people...God's primary motivation is love
- Jesus came to call us out of hiding and to know God
 - He didn't come to appease God or to hold back anger
 - GOD sent His son
 - Jesus came to say...this is the heart of God, how much he loves us and the lengths he would go to
- Why do we put up curtains?
 - People love darkness → we hide
 - Deep down we all believe that if people knew us they wouldn't like or love us
 - We project what we think people want to see
 - "To be known and not loved is our greatest fear." - Tim Keller
 - Sometimes we hide because we've sinned. Sometimes we hide because someone sinned against us
- God says, "My love is greater than all of your fears" (Perfect love casts out fear)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How is John 3:16 affecting you after hearing it in maybe a new light
2. What does it mean to you that you can be made new by God?
3. What does it look like to live eternal life now (knowing God and knowing Jesus)?
4. How does the fear of people knowing you and not liking/loving you play out in your life?
5. How does it affect your heart and mind that God sent His son to show you the lengths he would go to for you?
6. Where in your life does the perfect love of God need to cast out some fear?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Genesis 15:1-18 Tues: Psalm 27 Wed: Philippians 3:12-4:1 Thurs: Luke 13:31-35 Fri: Luke 9:28-43a

Songs from the weekend:[Awestruck - *Grace Worship*] - [Raise A Hallelujah - *Bethel Music*] - Downpour - *Grace Worship*] - [Only Jesus - *Bethel Music*]