

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Unreasonable Faith - Week of March 3

Introduction

What does it mean to be reasonable? Usually it is meant as a compliment when someone says, "She is a reasonable person". However, reasonable people typically play it safe. They don't make waves and they usually don't challenge the status quo. We remember people in history who were unreasonable. They would not accept things as they were and moved beyond reasonable expectations.

Truthfully, more people than ever are struggling with anxiety, stress and depression because they do not feel they can live up to the "reasonable expectations" society is placing upon them. Do you feel you have more clarity in your life right now or more ambiguity? Do you feel that people are in a fog or are they living into their passions?

Background:

Colossians was written by Paul from a prison in Rome in response to "syncretism" which is the combining of other ideas, philosophies, and religions which may sound close to the Judeo Christian Faith but are full of heresies or untruth. This led to Gnosticism which focused primarily upon "knowledge". In other words, if you want to get close to God then it is what you knew about God which would bring one closer to God.

Before Reading Colossians ask these three questions:

- 1) What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
- 2) What are you going to do about it?
- 3) How can we help you? In particular think of the "Nature of Jesus" as the scripture is being read.

Read Colossians 1: 3-20

(Have someone read Colossians 1: 3-14, and another read vs. 15-20)

- 1) What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Let's reexamine the Nature of Jesus from the message:

Nature of Jesus:

Confident Hope

All Powerful - Abundance

Creative - Growth

Clarity - Decisive

Compassionate - Empathy

Sacrificial

Nature of Humanity

Fear vs. 5

Scarcity vs. 6

Comfort vs. 10

Confusion & Indecisiveness vs. 15

Selfishness & arrogance vs. 18-19

Greed - survival vs. 20

- 2) What are you going to do about it?

How can we claim more of the nature of Jesus through faith?

What one area above do you feel the Holy Spirit would like for you to work on?

Do you want to achieve personal growth? If so, what do you need to give up?

Do you desire clarity in your life? If so, how can faith in Jesus bring a more decisiveness to our lives?

Do you desire to care more for others? Are you willing to become more empathetic? What do you need to surrender to God in order to move in this direction?

Lastly, what does greed keep us from in life? What would we experience if we became less greedy?

Unreasonable Faith

3) How can we help you?

Often when our campus pastors counsel persons and the individual seems to be grasping or struggling for clarity as to what is holding them back, the question is asked, "If God could answer one prayer for you today what would you want God to answer for you?" In other words in Mark 10, Bartimaeus said to Jesus, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." And Jesus demanded that the disciples bring blind Bartimaeus to him. Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" and the blind man replied, "I want to see". In other words, Jesus was asking, "if you had one prayer today, what would it be?" So share with the group what your one prayer for today might be.

In closing take this final question seriously and literally pray for each person in your group believing that God hears every prayer and in God's wisdom God will answer or attend to each one.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

- Mar. 3: Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54, Mark 11:1-26, Psalm 46:1-11, Proverbs 10:23
- Mar. 4: Numbers 2:1-3:51, Mark 11:27-12:17, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 10:24-25
- Mar. 5: Numbers 4:1-5:31, Mark 12:18-37, Psalm 48:1-14, Proverbs 10:26
- Mar. 6: Numbers 6:1-7:89, Mark 12:38-13:13, Psalm 49:1-20, Proverbs 10:27-28
- Mar. 7: Numbers 8:1-9:23, Mark 13:14-37, Psalm 50:1-23, Proverbs 10:29-30
- Mar. 8: Numbers 10:1-11:23, Mark 14:1-2, Psalm 51:1-19, Proverbs 10:31-32
- Mar. 9: Numbers 11:24-13:33, Mark 14:22-52, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 11:1-3

Text: Acts 15:6-19, Colossians 1:3-23

PLAIN TRUTH

_____ **faith is based on**
an _____ Gospel.

Nature of Jesus

Nature of Humanity

Confident _____

Fear _____

All Powerful - _____

Creative - Growth _____

"Comfort and Growth cannot _____."

Nature of Jesus

Nature of Humanity

Clarity - Decisive

Confusion & _____

Compassion - Empathy

_____ and arrogance

Sacrificial

_____ - survival

Power Point:

Christianity is not based upon _____ you _____ but
"_____ you _____ - Jesus."

March 3, 2024