

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 5/28/23

Sermon: Go

Text: Genesis 12:1-3

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Nathan Athineos

The goal of Ted's sermon this Sunday was to lay a foundation for "going" and why it is so important. Ted's first point was God wants to do a great thing for us and in us before he does great things through us. If we have the wrong motivations and put ourselves before Christ, he cannot do great things through us. We have to know what God has done before we can freely give, and to do that we have to accept the gift of life and forgiveness that is offered to us. Ted's second point was that the Bible is not just a set of rules for us to follow, but rather it points us to Jesus and his divine story. If we take examples of people from the Bible, like Adam, Abraham, or David, we can see that they all point to Jesus and that Jesus is a better version of all of them. When we realize these two things, God can use us for his glory!

Ted pointed out two big mistakes that many Christians make. First, we fail to see God's redemptive story. We go through life missing that story because we underestimate its significance and live passively instead of actively. The Second mistake is we overestimate our significance. We are not the center of the Bible, Jesus is.

1. What are ways we underplay God's significance in our own lives and that of the world? How can we be reminded that Christ is the center of everything and make it evident in how we live our lives?
2. What are ways we make the Bible and Jesus about us? How can we let go of our self-importance and accept God's plans for us?

Returning to Ted's First point, Ted emphasized that we cannot saturate the community if we have the wrong motivations. The biggest difference between Christianity and all other religions is salvation is not centered on what we can do but what God HAS done. It is not by good works or trying hard enough that we are saved, but rather that God came to us while we were still sinners and offered us the gift of redemption freely. We are not saved "Because I" did anything to deserve it, it is all "BECAUSE GOD".

1. What wrong motivations do you see in your life that can act as a hindrance to saturating our community?
2. What else in our lives do we say “Because I” instead of “Because God”? How does this sense of self-righteousness affect the way we live?

The bible is full of people who have stories. There is no sin in looking at those stories and asking how we should live in light of them. But, we often forget that the light those stories shed reveals Jesus, not ourselves. God uses imperfect people for his perfect plan, and when we are filled with the spirit, we can leave our old allegiances and fulfill his will for our lives.

1. To what standards do we hold ourselves up? What standards SHOULD we hold ourselves up to? Are we capable of fulfilling the standards that God holds?
2. How is Jesus a better Abraham?
3. When we are filled with the spirit, we can leave our old allegiances. What allegiances are we holding on to that act as a hindrance to our worshipful service and keep Christ out of being the center of our lives?