



Pt 2: Shrewd & Innocent

Pastor Tom Kang

Icebreaker: What's something that fills you with wonder and awe? (ex: nature, art, a specific person, etc)

1. Read Matthew 10:16. The Greek word *phronimos* ("shrewd") doesn't mean cunning or calculated but "wisdom with street-cred" Who in your life has *phronimos*? When have you needed that kind of practical, street-tested wisdom – and did you receive it, resist it, or learn it the hard way?
2. The Greek word *akeraios* ("innocent") means "unmixed", "uncontaminated". Jesus is calling us to live "with eyes wide open to the world but [refusing] to let it contaminate who you are." Where is your heart most at risk of being mixed? What would "uncontaminated" look like in that exact area?
3. Read Matthew 18:1-4. Pastor Tom mentions a child walking into a garden with wonder. What's something you used to approach with wonder (Scripture, prayer, a relationship, etc) – that has quietly become a routine you critique rather than a gift? What would it look like to walk into it again with an open heart and wide eyes?
4. Three concrete moves were offered towards the end of the message:
Name it ("I've become cynical about _____")
Trace it ("When did the arms cross? What happened right before I stopped hoping?")
Pray it ("God, I don't know if this will do anything ... I'm bringing that to You – not a performance, just the truth").

Which of the three feels hardest for you, and why? Would you be willing to try the first one out loud right now – even just naming the area you've become cynical about – and let your group pray Psalm 139:23–24 over you?

5. Pastor Tom shared some practical practices to guard against cynicism. Choose one or two that you would like to put into practice this week and share with your group:
 - (1) Eliminate sarcasm from our lives
 - (2) Engage with confession and forgiveness
 - (3) Cultivate and express gratitude and praise
 - (4) Be open to being surprised by joy and delight
 - (5) Engage regularly in the spiritual practice of celebration
 - (6) Engage in the spiritual practice of giving people the benefit of the doubt
 - (7) Watch/play with children
 - (8) Keep a prayer journal to record where and when Jesus answers prayers
 - (9) Surround yourself with tender-hearted, hope-filled people
 - (10) Invite other people to pray into this with and for you
 - (11) Disrupt your environment (try something new, wake up from the doldrums)

*Close by praying for one another – specifically asking God for the *phronimos* (shrewdness) of His Son and the *akeraios* (innocence) of His children. Eyes wide open. Hearts uncontaminated. Arms uncrossed.*