



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Part 3 – *Hamilton: What's Enough?*

Pastor Tom Kang

Icebreaker: *What do you consider the greatest piece of art created in your lifetime?*

1) A young 17 year-old Hamilton penned the words below and shared them with his pastor, Hugh Knox:
“Where now, oh! vile worm, is all thy boasted fortitude and resolution? What is become of thine arrogance and self-sufficiency? ... Death comes rushing on in triumph, veiled in a mantle of tenfold darkness. His unrelenting scythe, pointed and ready for the stroke ... See thy wretched helpless state and learn to know thyself ... Despise thyself and adore thy God ... O ye who revel in affluence see the afflictions of humanity and bestow your superfluity to ease them ... Succor the miserable and lay up a treasure in heaven.”

Thoughts? Do you get a taste of Hamilton’s charismatic conviction? Do you see his communicative gifts at work? And what does “despise thyself and adore God” as well as “lay up a treasure in heaven” mean for you?

2) Joseph is one of the main character of the Old Testament and given primary real estate (Genesis 37-40). In the message, Pastor Tom highlighted the following parallels between the life of Joseph AND Hamilton:

- 1- Separated (tragically) from their families at an early age.
- 2 - Both divinely gifted and favored (“hand-picked”).
- 3 - Surrounded by jealousy and envy.
- 4 - Both rose to become the 2nd most powerful person in a foreign land.
- 5 - On the journey towards increasing power, both were tempted by another man’s wife.

Discuss the parallels above and how you identify (or not) with each. Which one stand out to you the most right now and why? Finally, name where and how Joseph and Hamilton part ways. (Hint: Genesis 39)

3) King David penned Psalm 51 during a particularly low moment in his life. Spend some time reading all of Psalm 51 together, aloud, and share which portion(s) speaks to you the most and why.

Next share your thoughts about how the following scientific study might intersect with relation to Psalm 51: *The Journal of Behavioral Medicine published a study in 2005 which said FORGIVENESS is positively associated with 5 measures of health: physical symptoms, medications used, sleep quality, fatigue, and somatic complaints/bodily complications.*

4) Hamilton was nothing, if not AMBITIOUS and extremely GIFTED. He was, indeed, “young, scrappy and hungry” and his reputation for an insatiable appetite for more success was well-deserved. Yet towards the end of his short life, he learned that LOVE, PEACE & FORGIVENESS were more than enough to satisfy. Discuss. (Need more prompting? Read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 4:11,12 & Ephesians 4:31,32.)

Resources & Reminders:

[Alexander Hamilton](#), Ron Chernow

[God and Hamilton](#), Kevin Cloud

[“The Gospel Takes Center Stage in ‘Hamilton’”](#) -Christianity Today

[“Here’s Every Biblical Reference in ‘Hamilton’”](#) -Christianity Today

[“On Hamilton, Criticism, and the Power of Creativity”](#) -The Gospel Coalition

