

The fight for our hearts against comfort

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Matt Hogg 25/08/13

Scriptures

Exodus 9 v1-7, 9 v22-6 and 10 v21-23, (Ephesians 2v8, Deuteronomy 8:17)

Outline

Half-way through the plagues the Israelites suddenly find themselves under God's protection. When life suddenly gets better we don't see any response to God - no praise, no gratefulness. I know that for me, when life gets easier that's when it gets harder for me to keep worshipping God.

Our challenge: when the kindness of God brings blessings our way, can we let that kindness to let us get comfortable.

How we can respond:

1. they became comfortable in the extraordinary
2. they became comfortable with everyday blessings

As a result, we swap:

- generosity for stinginess
- thankfulness for grumbling
- gratefulness for jealousy, and
- contentedness for envy

The solution:

- Everything comes from Jesus
- We need to know where we've come from
- We need to fight to stay where Christ has brought us
- Remember: no matter how much we might miss the blessings of God, he never, ever gives up on us

Questions for discussion

1. Do you find it easier to press into worshipping God when you are facing hard or good times in your life? Why do you think that is?
2. Does anyone feel that they have become 'spiritually comfortable'? Perhaps missing either the extraordinary or the everyday blessings of God?
3. Can you tell the group about what in your life draws your focus back to God's blessings in your everyday life?
4. Read Deuteronomy 8:17. How do you think our attitude to what we have in our life would alter if we truly knew that everything is a gift from God?
5. Brainstorm some practical ways members of the group could keep in mind the blessings of God.

Tags

Exodus, Thanksgiving, Praise, Serving, Blessing, Giving, Gratefulness