Group Questions – Week 4: Unlearning Religion

11/15/26 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- Would you rather eat all your food with your hands or use utensils with only your non-dominant hand?
- Is one thing you learned about a family member that “burst a bubble”? In other words, what did you have to unlearn and relearn about them?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What’s something from this week’s teaching that you learned, stood out, was interesting?
- This series has focused on the section of the Sermon on the Mount beginning with "Do not judge..."
- **READ** Matthew 7:1-12
    - Week one, we used the illustration of a high jump bar. By adding to the law, the Pharisees raised the bar, which is condemning. The world wants to remove the bar, doing away with the law, which is condoning. But Jesus lifts you over the bar, which is transforming (vs. 1-2).
    - Week two, we heard that God is asking us to aim higher. We don't learn from the Bible for information, so that we can hold it up as a standard that is unreachable, but we desire to learn more about God and grow in our relationship with God because God wishes to transform us. We learned that religion about God implies arrival; but a relationship with God is in flight-a process of being transformed our entire life (vs. 3-5).
    - Week 3 we said love makes us want to change. That we should
    - This week Pastor Kirby tried to address some of the practical questions that have come up through this series.
- Sometimes even Christians can define the bar in different ways - how do we walk through that? (the example given is that some Christians choose to not drink at all, while others are okay with social drinking). Jesus has several instances where He is incredibly CLEAR about what is righteous. That means it is true for everyone. When Scripture is NOT clear, this is where Christians must wrestle with their own lifestyle choices. Within the topic of drinking, the Bible sets the bar as not drinking to the point of drunkenness but does not define drinking itself as a sin. If drunkenness is the lowest bar set, then for specific people God can call you ABOVE the standard of righteousness – but the bar never drops below the righteous standard that God has set out for everyone
- What are other areas in life where you see Christians interpret the same topic differently? How can you navigate those differences and help each other understand where scripture IS clear?
    - Keep in mind Pastor Kirby’s comment that assessing each other UP TO the bar is discernment, but anywhere ABOVE the bar is judgement
- Define discernment? What does that mean for us as Christians?

- At its core, the ability to discern is the ability to separate a truth from a lie. Scripture tells us to ask for wisdom, and to lean into the voice of the Holy Spirit that God has given us In big part discernment is leaning into the voice of wisdom and truth from the Holy Spirit in our life
- In marriage (or in any significant relationship) - how do you reconcile differences that aren't necessarily "below the bar" issues - but are just clashes in personality or preference? Such as how you manage conflict, parenting, finances, etc
- What would you say is the difference in judgment and conviction?
- How can we communicate LOVE and TRUTH to those around us as opposed to
- judgment?
- If you have been the one needing to get "back on track" in life, how have you experienced the difference in genuine love and conviction as opposed to judgment from others?

Application Questions:

- Take a real inventory of your own life in two areas:
- If I am a follower of Christ, where have I excused myself to live below the bar where
- God has not?
- Where am I letting myself miss out on the best God has for me? Where do I need to “aim higher”?
- When it comes to the world, where am I holding those around me to a 'religious
- Standard’ that is condemning and judging and not loving?
- Based on your answers to the two questions above what are some practical changes you need to make in your life to truly begin to live out the principles of Judge Not'?