SURPRISE - Part 1

Learning Daily Missional Habits that help us to embody our faith and surprise the world.

Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, 1 John 2:3-6, Titus 2:1-10

PRE-SERMON

WELCOME

- Last Sundays 6 Minutes Sermon Speakers did amazing! (Colter, Jarita, Jeremy, and Stephanie)
  - Collectively, they really brought some good perspective to how we use our time:
    - Share Jesus
    - Forgive & Seek Reconciliation
    - Share what Jesus has done in your life
    - Do now what you can't do in heaven
  - Watch online at Dailychurch.us/media or on the App, Facebook and Youtube
  - WELCOME ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- GENEROSITY
- MEN'S CONFERENCE : 5wks away, info available at dailychurch.us/events
- Tshirts, Hoodies, Hats

This morning, each of you found a small gift on your chairs. These journals are intended to help you as we begin our new teaching series today. I realize that not everyone likes to take notes or journal, but I'm going to encourage you to do it anyway. It may not be a habit that you do forever, but if you are consistent with it for 4-6 weeks, you might find that it is worth continuing.

INTRO

Surprise!

Who doesn't love a good surprise?!

I have a habit of regularly of Surprising Patty around our house. I don't mean to. In fact, I don't think it's anything that I'm doing. I think it's just something about her. Here's the scenario... We are both home and we know that we are both home, but we are doing different things in different parts of the house, then I come into the room where she is about the time that she is turning to come out of the same door... and she screams and jumps in the air. Honestly, I'm not sure who is more surprised her when she is startled by me, or me...when she screams for no reason. I know I can be scary looking, but I didn't think I was that scary.

There are times when something unexpected happens and it's a "good surprise"...
And there are times when something unexpected happens that we call "bad surprises".

Good surprise – when you put your pants on in the morning, and you find a $20 bill in the pocket that you didn't know was there?

Bad surprise – when you reach into your pocket and instead of finding your keys, you find a hole.

Good surprise – when generous friends show up at your house on Christmas morning just to drop off fresh homemade cinnamon rolls

Bad surprise – when family members from out of town show up at your house unexpectedly after you had talked to them several days earlier and told them not to come because you had important plans and would not be available. Surprise!

Good Surprise — You bite into an apple and it is sweater and more delicious than you expected.

Bad Surprise — When you take the first bite of your omelet and find a beetle instead of a mushroom.

Unexpected events, of all kings, result in surprise in our lives.

- Sometimes, we are like Patty, not expecting anything...and something just jumps out at us.
- Other times, we are expecting something (and often we have very specific expectations)...and the surprise is that it didn't turn out the way we thought.
    - We call this, "unmet expectations"...and our response to unmet expectations can be even more extreme and more impactful than the jump scare.
        - Think about unmet expectations in your own life...
        - How did you expect things to go with your family? Did it go that way?
        - How did your career turn out? Like you thought? Or did it have unexpected twists and turns?
        - Did that "sure thing" turn out as sure as you planned?
        - Is this stage of your life what you expected or do you find yourself disappointed with some parts?
        - HERE IS A BIG ONE -- Are you ever disappointed with God? Or, disappointed in your faith experience? Are there unmet expectations of what you thought it would be like to be a Christian or what you were told it would be like...and your own experience?

Those are not questions that are typically asked out loud. In many gathering of Christians, those questions would be considered taboo or they would be at least swept under the rug.

- If the question was asked, "Are you ever disappointed with God?"...the acceptable response might be "Oh not! God is good...all the time...and all the time God is good. Amen. Hallelujah"
    - To that I would say, "Yes, God is truly good...but I have still had my disappointments...and unmet expectations that relate to God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and my own spiritual journey.
    - We need to wrestle honesty with real issues and questions -- Not pretend and live disingenuously.
    - If Christians don't learn to wrestle honestly, together, with questions, unmet expectations and disappointment in discovering that something is not as good as we believed it would be, we will become disillusioned.

DISILLUSIONED - Disappointment in discovering that something is not as good as it was believed to be.

DISILLUSIONED

There are now generations of Christians and Former Christians who were either taught or somehow came to believe that their lives would be transformed into beauty...that they would be saved, sanctified, and set free...if they would simply say a prayer, attend church, and read their bible...or maybe just say the prayer.

That would have been a completely foreign concept to Jesus and his disciples!

German Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer would have called this “cheap grace”. "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.”

- The idea that Jesus can be your savior, without being your Lord.
- That believing in/following Jesus will essentially cost you nothing.

- That you can pray, attend, and read...without any change in your daily life -- That is cheap grace. Bought into because it sounds good. Sold cheaply...because it is worthless.
- It leads people to believe something wonderful will happen in their lives...but leaves them disillusioned.

THEN HOW ARE WE SAVED? HOW IS OUR LIFE TRANSFORMED?

It's certainly not by our own good works or behavior...

BIBLE PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV - New International Version)

[8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

[9] not by works, so that no one can boast.

IT IS GRACE! A GIFT, BECAUSE GOD LOVES US.

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 3:16 (NIV - New International Version)

[16] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

GRACE - A GIFT OF GODS LOVE - SO, HOW DO WE RECEIVE IT?

BIBLE PASSAGE

Romans 10:9 (NIV - New International Version)

[9] If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

THERE IT IS...

While the cheap grace salesperson would say, "all you have to do is pray the prayer, Jesus is Lord"...

Jesus would say, "you actually have to make me your Lord!"

- That's not cheap.
- Making Jesus Lord of your life, will cost you everything you have.
- He's the boss now.
- Whatever he says, goes.
- It's not your time, talent, and treasure...it belongs to him.
- You belong to him.

Here is what needs to be made clear...

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1 Choosing Jesus as the Lord of your life will cost you greatly. Not choosing Jesus as the Lord of your life will cost you a lot more.

THERE ARE MASSIVE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW THAT.

- There are many who identify as "Christian"...who do not know that.
- There are many who used to considered themselves "Christians"...who never knew that. So they never knew how Jesus Lordship would transform their lives.
    - **What does the message of cheap grace lead to?** A bad surprise...unmet expectations...disillusionment...the conclusion that prayer, church, the Bible, and ultimately Jesus, just isn't as good as they had believed.
    - I am convinced that this is the single greatest issue behind the masses of people who have just stopped going to church in recent years.
        - They believed the message of cheep grace - they tried it - it didn't produce - so they dropped it.
    - I think the same reason is behind the lack of regular church participation.
        - Many were taught the message of cheap grace - they believed it - they tried it - it didn't produce - but they just can't bring themselves to drop it all together - so they still participate sometimes. (And maybe it's because they haven't completely succumb to disillusionment...they still have a little hope it will matter in the end)
        - If that is you...I'm glad you are still here...because maybe today is the day that you go beyond prayer, attendance and reading...and make Jesus the Lord of your life.

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2 TO BELIEVE IN JESUS IS TO MAKE HIM LORD OF YOUR LIFE

"PUT SOME SKIN IN THE GAME"...ALL THE SKIN

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 John 2:3-6 (NIV - New International Version)

[3] We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

[4] Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

[5] But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:

[6] Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

SOME CALL THIS A "CRUCIFORM" WAY OF LIFE. A WAY OF LIFE THAT MODELS WHAT JESUS SAID, DID, TAUGHT, ETC.

As followers/disciples of Jesus, we NEED to learn to live as Jesus did:

1. First, for our own transformation
    - Jesus didn't come just to change minds...but to change lives.
2. Second, for those who are watching us
    - As you know, we all teach with our words...and with our actions.
    - In fact, what we do is often more impactful than what we say.

QUOTE

> *The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today Is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.*

Brennan Manning, Author, The Ragamuffin Gospel

“FORMATIVE” OR “PERFORMATIVE”

It's a common phrase, "we get good at what we practice".

As individual Christians and as the church, we need to begin to look closely at our practices/our habits.

- Are we practicing the ways of Jesus?
- Are we putting into practice what he taught?
- Are our regular habits performative (performance for others) or formative...forming us to look more like Jesus?

3

OUR HABITS REVEAL AND SHAPE LORDSHIP

QUOTE

> “Our habits reveal and shape what we love”.

Tish Harrison Warren, Author, Liturgy of the Ordinary

HABITS REVEAL AND SHAPE

- Our habits/what we do with our lives, reveals what we really think about Jesus.
- Our habits/what we do with our lives, also shape what we think about Jesus.

In Matthew 12:34, Jesus, speaking about some unsavory characters says, (NIV): For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

- The habit/activity is revealing what is inside.

The Apostle Paul tells the church in Philippians 4:8–9 (NIV): 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

- There, the habit/practice is sure to shape what is inside.

OUR HABITS REVEAL AND SHAPE LORDSHIP - So, we should not dismiss our habits as insignificant. We should look at them closely...and determine them carefully.

I want to read one last scripture before our musicians lead us in a final song.

It is Titus 2:1-10...where Paul is giving instructions to the church leader, Titus.

I want to give you a heads up first, so you will see it when we read it...

Paul does not instruct Titus to teach his church, to conduct themselves in certain habits/manners in order to win Gods grace. Because Gods grace is offered freely (not cheaply...freely...at great cost to God).

Pauls instruction is about how they should live...their practices and habits...AND HOW, IF DONE RIGHT, THEIR LIVES WOULD MAKE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS ATTRACTIVE TO OTHERS.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Titus 2:1-10 (NIV - New International Version)

[1] You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

[2] Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

[3] Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

[4] Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,

[5] to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

[6] Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

[7] In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

[8] and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

[9] Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,

[10] and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

APPLICATION

Paul insists that the church learn to live this way in order to make the teaching of the church attractive. Nothing would be more unexpected/surprising in the first century than, a slave who loved his master, or a self-controlled young man, or an old woman who didn't engage in slander. This was Pauls recipe for an unexpected/surprising life, that would cause non-christians to be intrigued and ask questio

Nothing would be more surprising, in a good way, to our world…than for them to witness us living in the way of Christ…truly surrounded to Jesus…being transformed…and giving them a taste of the glory…

SONG: CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED

SURPRISE THE WORLD SMALL GROUPS

- start this week
- Tuesday & Thursday Morning Locations were swapped
- 4 Options
    - Tuesday morning at Artifacts Gallery & Coffee Shop
    - Thursday morning at Durango Joes
    - Thursday evening at Three Rivers Pizzeria
    - Sunday evening in our classroom
- These groups are designed for relationship, discussion, support, and accountability…as we take the content from the previous Sunday sermon and collaborate to work it into our daily habits.

BENEDICTION

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV