

Focus, part 3 – 10/24/21

Pastor Rick

Message Summary:

God's desire is to help us understand the importance of walking with Him every step of the way and allowing Him to direct our steps as we move into the future.

Proverbs 19:20

Proverbs 16:9

Jeremiah 29:11

He gives us a future

Some of us have been praying for a move of God in our lives. However, for God to move in our lives, we have to move out of His way.

Jeremiah 29:10

1) Our Past

Jeremiah 2:13

Because past scars and frustrations weigh us down, we have trouble trusting God for the future.

Exodus 16:3

We remember the past as better than it actually was and would rather go back because we knew what to expect.

Trusting God with your future is a scary thing. You do not know exactly what it will hold, what you will have to walk through, where He will take you, or what it will cost you.

There are many unknowns when it comes to the future, which is why we are tempted to move toward comfort. If we aren't careful, our past comfort may have the potential to hold us back from our best future.

2) Our Present

What are you doing now to prepare for what is next?

God was able to call out David's sin and still use him in mighty ways

He was only focused on his own, selfish desires in the present.

In order to get to God's future for us, we have to focus on Him in the present.

3) Our Pride

Jeremiah 13:9

God desires we play the background, rather than the forefront of our lives and our stories.

Sometimes we are trying so hard to put God at the top of our priority list when, in reality, God wants to DESIGN the list!

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the message?
2. What progress were you able to make this past week on replacing negative thoughts with what is true, admirable, noble, etc? Review Phillipians 4:8.
3. Last week Pastor Omar shared that pausing, reflecting, meditating and changing are the keys to staying focused on Christ. Did you use any of these methods and how did it go?
4. Share any take-aways from your alone time with God. If you didn't take time yet, make an appointment time for this week and tell your group for accountability. Questions to consider: "Where do I spend the most of my time and energy? Why am I doing what I'm doing? How do I need to change?"
5. What encouragement do you receive from the Scriptures shared in this message?
6. What are you doing now to prepare for what is next?
7. End your group time in prayer asking God to draw near to you when you seek Him.