

Looking for a Group to connect and dive deeper in your relationship with God and others? Contact Community Pastor, Beth Yokley, at byokley@myhope.church.



Discussion Questions With Emily LeVault

Week 6

Matthew 23:27-28

Verse 28 describes the Pharisees as appearing righteous outwardly but being "full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" inside. How can we avoid falling into the same trap in our spiritual disciplines—doing the right things but missing the heart of the matter? Should we just not engage in a spiritual practice if our heart is not in it?

What do you think Jesus is revealing about the relationship between our external actions and the condition of our hearts? How can we ensure that our spiritual practices reflect inner transformation and not just a desire for approval?

Often in church we speak of growing in our faith and maturing in our walk with Jesus the longer we're with him. But a common block to spiritual maturity is a lack of emotional maturity. All of us have "sticking points"—things we can't seem to get past. Is there an emotional sticking point holding you back? Could it be trust? Fear? Anger? Jealousy? Worry? Control? Abandonment? Betrayal? An old wound that just won't heal?

Consider the thing in your life that is too impossible to fix. Unfixable. Dead and decaying deep within yourself. Do you pray about this regularly, or are you afraid that God won't answer the prayer so you don't bring it up at all? (I mean what if He says "no" right?!) Let's call this the Impossible Prayer. If you want to share, please do. But this can be incredibly difficult to voice, so don't feel pressure to share if you're not ready yet.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. Do you believe that the death and decay in your life can be revived? What convinces you that it is possible? What blocks you from trusting that fully?

Have you asked for this miracle of bringing life straight out of dry bones? What are you afraid might happen to your faith if God doesn't answer this Impossible Prayer in the way you need him to?