

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday March 3, 2019. "You Have Permission".

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Sunday.

Sunday was a one-part of a stand-alone message. The title for this message was "***You have permission***", and was a look at religion, and our tendency to make church, and a person's relationship with God, about just doing the right things and not doing the bad things. All of us want to live more and more about doing the better wiser things and to stop doing the things we know bring us heartache and pain.

However, we also know it's so much easier said than done. Living the kind of life most of us want to live isn't about knowing more or just doing the 'right' things. We know what it takes to live the way God is calling us to live. The problem is we can't seem to stay on the right path of making those better wiser decisions, and it becomes an exercise in futility to try.

A quote was shown at the beginning of the message that framed this truth.

"YOU ARE UNABLE ON YOUR OWN TO FULLY SOLVE THE PROBLEMS YOU CREATE".

So what does it take to have this understanding, and practice this type of awareness, in moving from a practice of religion to a real relationship with God?

C. Scripture.

The scripture used this past Sunday was an unusual one, (sometimes we just have to own the weirdness of bible stories), and referenced a story of Moses told in Exodus. So, read the New Testament passage first where Paul talks about this specific incident in the life of Moses, and then read the Hebrew scriptures one and then we'll pose some questions.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 and then **Exodus 34:29-35.**

So...as usual, what truths or aspects, of these two passages jumped out at you?

Did you notice that each passage had a different slant to why Moses covered his face?

What is your take on that?

There were three truths that were pulled from the Corinthians passage Sunday.

Talk about how each of these can affect your ability to live the way God called you to live.

1. LIFE IS HARD.

Moses losing his godly glow is not from Moses doing anything wrong. Life is hard...crushing at times. In those moments where we feel our little insufficient pool of self-control just gets sucked dry so quickly, we know we don't need anything bad to happen to diminish our glow. It just happens.

2. TRANSFORMATION NOT PERFORMANCE- (RELIGION).

You cannot, on your own, create and manage a lifestyle that will continually grow you into a better person. You do not possess the willpower, discipline, inner strength, self-control, to make yourself into the person you want to be.

2 Corinthians 3:17 addresses this when Paul talks about the "*constricting religion*". Churches love "*constricting religion*" and often practice "*Jesus and...*" then they add some of their own stuff to what it means to be a good Christian.

3. ONLY JESUS.

Final verse in this passage tells all. **2 Corinthians 3:18.**

The word used was transfigured, or a transformation, is how this happens. This is what happened to Paul between him being a Pharisee/teacher and his conversion. This happens TO you - and not BECAUSE of you.

Secret is surrender.

The life we want; purpose and meaning, happens when we surrender. Choose to stop trying to control your own life, perform, practice behavior modification. You cannot work or earn your growth. Religion, doing the things, is not enough, and will only lead to frustration.

Surrender- cease resistance to a superior opponent and to submit to their authority. To admit weakness and inability to overcome on your own.

-Stop fighting against.

-Recognize and acknowledge God as superior.

-Admit you are weak!

-AND know surrender will be a continual, ongoing, never-ending, process too.

D. Challenge.

The primary message and purpose of this topic was to grant us permission to not have it all together. To not be perfect, to mess up, and unfortunately we do this continually. Our faith, and Jesus coming, was never meant to be a behavior modification program of 'trying harder'. It was about the receiving of grace and power and to be 'transformed' by practicing habits and routines that would then begin to form this new person within us. It's training not trying.

What can you begin to practice and habits you can work into your life that are more about being transformed than to try to be good?

You have permission to not have it all together, but to trust a God who will help you!!