

Take Away – Fake It Till You Make It

Text: Matthew 7: 1 - 6

Date: 5-29-22



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. The sermon began with the question: "How can we welcome hard questions?" but was never specifically addressed with concrete examples. In what way(s) can we, as Christians, welcome and encourage getting asked "hard" questions?
2. We heard in the sermon that: "faking feelings can lead to actual feelings. You can, in fact, 'fake it till you make it.'" React to a similar notion laid out by C.S. Lewis: *"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. There is, indeed one exception. If you do him a good turn, not to please God and obey the law of charity, but to show him what a fine, forgiving chap you are, and to put him in your debt, and then sit down to wait for his 'gratitude', you will probably be disappointed. (People are not fools: they have a very quick eye for showing off, or patronage.) But whenever we do good to another self, just because it is a self, made (like us) by God and desiring its own happiness as we desire ours, we shall have learned to love it a little more, or at least to dislike it less..."*
3. React to: "Today we are challenged to welcome hard questions. This takes courage. It requires vulnerability. Maybe you don't feel like you have the necessary courage. Maybe it's uncomfortable to be vulnerable."
4. So, where in your life have you faked it till you made it. Where are you faking it right now?
5. Our reading from 1 Chronicles 28:20 is: Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished." How can we use this same advice when we speak to our own children, grandchildren, or the younger generation in general?
6. In this verse we read: "Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed." The Hebrew word for **dismayed** here is **te-chat**, which translates, "do not be **shattered** or don't fall

apart into little pieces, finish the work.” What are some ways as a small group we can help one another to not “fall apart into little pieces”?

7. From the sermon we heard that: “There is no difference between a person who acts courageous and someone who is. By God’s grace and power, you are able to act like a courageous person and doing courageous things means you are courageous!” Do you agree or disagree with this? Why? Or why not?
8. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. What does it mean to “test all things”? What is the purpose and how is it best done?