

Weekend Message Questions

John: A Cast of Characters

Jesus and the Religious

March 11-12, 2023

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CHECK-IN: Check with the members of your group to see how they are doing.

DISCUSS:

- During the message, Zach said “God’s commands don’t need our help.”
 - Do you ever find yourself trying to “help” God’s commands? How? Why do you think this is something Christians do?
- The gospel refers to the religious leaders of the time whose primary concern was enforcing the commands of God, implementing discipline/punishment for those who did not obey, and establishing themselves among the people as the ones who were “right” in the eyes of God.
 - Using that criteria, who might be considered the “religious leaders” of our time?
 - Being totally honest, have you ever behaved in a “religious leader” way that Jesus would have called out? Why do you think this can be an area Christians wander into?
- When we read scripture and listen to teaching we can have two perspectives; the Pharisee Approach: That reminds me of other people, or the Humility Approach: If even the tiniest part of my life is like that, I want God’s spirit to show it to me.
 - How can we position our hearts and minds to learn and grow from a place of humility?

READ: Luke 10:30-37

- What stands out to you in this passage?

DISCUSS:

- We often want to see ourselves as the hero of the story, and identify with the Good Samaritan.
 - Why do you think we want to see ourselves as the hero in the stories we read in scripture?
 - Is there anything to be gained or lost from placing ourselves in the position of the hero?
 - How could this attitude impact our relationship with Jesus?
 - How could this attitude impact our relationship with others?
- The role of the Good Samaritan in the story is to represent the work of Jesus on earth, and the beaten and helpless man on the side of the road represents us.
 - What does that make you think and/or feel? Why?
 - Have you ever felt broken and helpless, and in need of being rescued? When? What did you learn about yourself at that time? What did you learn about Jesus?
- What internal or external factors in your life might make it difficult to accept the position of needing rescue, rather than being the rescuer?
- How could your life be different if you placed yourself in the correct role in this story?

Pray to close.

Can you use prayer? <https://hopefellowship.net/prayer-request/>