



SMALL GROUPS

Life alone isn't living. We SHARE community.

BIG QUESTIONS - WEEK 2

THE "INSIDER AND THE "OUTSIDER"

4/15/18

Recap:

- ✦ Did you experience anything this week that helped you overcome any doubts concerning God or His promises?
- ✦ What steps did you take to deepen your walk with God? A step is a step, no matter how large or small. God values and blesses every effort to get to know Him.

This Week:

Our "Big Question" is "What is so wrong with the world?" To answer this question we look to Jesus' encounters with the "outcast" and the "insider."

Our "outcast" is the Samaritan woman at the well. Read her story in John 4:6-26.

- ✦ What do we know about her - what would lead us to believe she was a social outcast?
- ✦ How does Jesus bridge the social gap between Himself and the woman? V. 7-9
- ✦ What physical need does Jesus use to illustrate a spiritual need? V. 10
- ✦ How does she respond to Jesus' offer of Living Water? V. 11-12

The woman failed to recognize all that Jesus offered because she didn't understand who He was.

- ✦ As much as you can, are you trying to understand who God truly is?
- ✦ How does failing to seek God affect the way you live your life?
- ✦ Can you think of anyone who exemplifies the lifestyle of a Christian who is actively seeking a deep relationship with God and that pours into the lives of those around them? This can be anyone, past or present.
- ✦ How did they touch your life?
- ✦ What do you want your life to look like?

It would appear that Jesus quickly changes the subject by asking her to go get her husband.

- ✦ What was her response? V. 17

Jesus uses His response to her answer to reveal Himself as more than a man and to gently expose her as a sinner. V. 18-19. The connection between Jesus as Living Water and the woman as a sinner is the word "thirst." We are all thirsty for the same Living Water, but we do not all try to quench our thirst with it.

- ✦ What are some things people use to try to quench that thirst?
- ✦ How was this woman trying to quench her thirst?

Living with a sixth man in this time and place in history is nothing short of scandalous. She sacrificed each marriage, relationships with other women, her social standing, and other things we can't possibly know from our glimpse into her life, all to satisfy that endless thirst.

- ◆ Can you relate to her thirst?
- ◆ Are you trying to quench your thirst for Christ with anything else?

On the opposite end of the spectrum we see the "insider," a very religious and moral man, who was as thirsty as the "outcast." Read John 3:1-7 for the account of Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus.

Jesus cuts straight to the heart of the matter by informing Nicodemus that he cannot see Heaven unless he is born again. V. 5

- ◆ How was being born again so very different from Nicodemus' current approach, as a Pharisee, to gaining Heaven?
- ◆ How does that put him and the outsider on equal footing?
- ◆ Are you unintentionally substituting religious activities in place of a relationship with God?
- ◆ Would you classify yourself as an outsider, an insider, or someone in between?

Practical Application:

"Jesus is the only Savior who if you gain Him will satisfy you, and if you fail Him will forgive you. Your career and your moral performance, by contrast, cannot die for your sins."

-Timothy Keller

And that is what's so wrong with our world - sin. This is true for the outsider, the insider, and everyone in between. We are all fallen and we are all thirsty. The only Answer to our sin, the only Water for our souls, is Jesus.

- ◆ Knowing this, why do we so often choose to live each day without Him?
- ◆ How do we go about satisfying our souls with Jesus?
- ◆ What are some practical steps you can take to bring God into your daily routine?

Digging Deeper:

(Intended for private study and reflection.)

Give a few of these resources a try this week. Be purposeful about spending time with God. Make an appointment to meet with Him each day. It can be short. It can be long. It doesn't have to be done just like anyone else. Experience a little more each day what it means to have Jesus quench your spiritual thirst. Be prepared to share your progress next week.

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Podcast - More Than A Song, YouTube - the Bible Project

