BRAND NEW ORIGINS CHURC н ANIIIY

Week 1: Brand New Start

BRAND NEW START JESUS OFFERS US A NEW KIND OF BEGINNING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We all desire a fresh start in some way.....

We've all had the experience of wanting to change. Especially around the new year, we set goals, we make resolutions, we join gyms, and throw out all the junk food in hopes of finally making the change we desire. A fresh start. This year will be different. This job will be different. This relationship will be different. We all, in some way or another, long for a fresh start.

However, we all know how it feels to long so deeply for a things to be different, to find they only end up like they always do. Gym memberships are paid for, but never used. Vegetables are on the list but sit welting in fridge. Commitments to never go back, never look again, never partake again, and never light up another fall to the crippling momentum of desire and satisfaction.

With the massive list of "fresh starts" that we've all wanted and hoped for, why on earth would we expect that church and religion would be any different? How would Jesus offer something unique to ever other failed ambition we've experienced in the past?

Over the next 4 weeks, we're going to be looking at exactly that. What is different about the new beginning that Jesus offers? What is special about the new life he promises and what keeps it from ending up in just like all the other?

The simple answer, and the one we hope to see is that we're not turning to religion, we're turning to Jesus.

Sermon Notes:

We've all had seasons where we hope things will change. We want things to be different but can't really seem to make the change. What is this fresh start or new beginning that Jesus offers us and how can how is it different?

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if Anyone is in Christ, he is a new Creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

_____ Changes Everything

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

Jesus doesn't offer cheap religion, but like transformation.

In Christ, we find real and true change.

We ______ behind. " the old has passed away"

Finding Jesus new life, requires me to let go of my old life.

We must empty ourselves for something greater.

Spiritual Value

Relational Value

Practical Value

May you find a BRAND NEW START that only Jesus can offer.

WORK THROUGH IT..

What are some of the things that you want to change in your life? If you could throw a penny in a fountain and have a fresh start, brand new, type of change in your life, where would that be? Why?

How do you think, deciding to follow Jesus might make a change in that area?

What reservation and concerns do you have about making that decision?

Who can you talk to about those reservations? If the change you're looking for is one decision away, what could is hurt to have a conversation about it? Will you commit this week to reaching out to someone who does follow Jesus and having a conversation with them about your reservations?

_____. Yes _____ Yes _____ Why the heck not, yes.

LEARNING TOGETHER QUESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

As a group, read Isaiah 43:18-19.

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things go old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Context:

In this passage, God is speaking to the nation of Israel through the Prophet Isaiah. He is telling the people, who are clamoring for their old way of life to return, that there is something greater on the horizon. In the previous two verses he uses language that resembled the exodus, when God parted the waters and made a way for the people. God brought about a path forward that no one could perceive or expect. He promises Israel that while they want to go back to Israel's former glory that what he had in store, this new beginning he was writing for them, would be grander than anything they imagine.

How would you describe the differences between "cheap christianity" and truly following Jesus?

What are so things from our former life that might be hard to let go of in our pursuit of Jesus' Brand New?

Even though God promised us something greater, why do you think we struggle so much to trust that?

What have you had to sacrifice or let go of to find something greater in Jesus?

What greater things have you found in Jesus when it comes to the three categories mentioned Sunday; spiritual, relational, and practical value?

Imagine someone with reservations about faith came to you think week to ask about why you believe. What stories of new life would you share to encourage them?



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