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Sermon Outline

Spring Cleaning: Uncluttering Your Soul

Taking Inventory

Mark 5:24-34

May 6-7, 2018 Titus O'Bryant

Dissect your own story.

Connect your story to others.

Discover your role in God's story.

Looking Back

Spring Cleaning: Taking Inventory

Mark 5:24-34

She had already been healed of her painful condition, but it wasn't until she spoke with Jesus and told him her story that Jesus pronounced blessing on her: "Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Until we understand ourselves and give our own stories away we can't truly know God. Our spiritual growth can become stagnate if we fail to understand our own stories. It's time for a soul inventory...

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree/consider/contemplate)

Our wisdom consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and the knowledge of ourselves. But as these are connected together by many ties, it is not easy to determine which of the two precedes and gives birth to the other. ~ John Calvin

Jesus was not selfless. He did not live as if only other people counted. He knew his value and worth. He had friends. He asked people to help him. At the same time Jesus was not selfish. He did not live as if nobody else counted. He gave his life out of love for others. From a place of loving union with his Father, Jesus had a mature, healthy 'true self.' ~ Pete Scazzero

Story is a catalyst tool of God, growing the individual and building community so that they bring Him glory and offer the visible presence of Christ to a watching, needy world. ~ Gail Seidel

Working It Out

1. Why and how is understanding our own story, giving it to God, and communicating it to others a necessary component of living well and living blessed?
2. In Mark 5:21-43, Jesus' healing of a woman with a severe chronic illness occurs inside a story about his restoring Jairus' daughter to life.
 - a. How do the characters mirror one another or what are the similarities and differences between the woman and Jairus, the woman and the little girl, and the disciples and the professional mourners?
 - b. What might Mark be trying to teach us through these connections?
 - c. How did the woman demonstrate faith in verse 27 and verse 33?
3. How has your orientation to life, your relationship with God, and your soul been shaped by your family life and key people, success and struggle, and God's grace? How has God shaped you to reveal his character and beauty to others?

Looking Ahead

Inside Out: Exploring the Psalms ***Psalm 73: Dealing with Doubt***

The Psalms capture the totality of the human experience. It's part of what makes them so amazing and simultaneously (if we're honest) *uncomfortable*. Because the Psalms give voice to the deep and dark feelings and thoughts of our souls, including things like doubt. Here in Psalm 73, we have a follower of God, a leader of the people – Asaph, who honestly and openly struggles with his doubts about God's goodness. His journey invites us to look at our own doubt and to learn how to understand it and move through it as he did.

1. Read Psalm 73:1-13. What is at the center of Asaph's doubt? What is it about?
2. What do you notice about how he understands his own doubt? How does he process it?
3. Where do you see a *turn*, or a change in posture / attitude in Asaph? (what verse?). What brings this about, that you can see?
4. When you read verses 21-26, what has changed in Asaph's life from the beginning of the Psalm? What has NOT changed?