

Sunday, February 24, 2019 - "A Church Without Curtains - Week 1" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Matthew 27:45-51, Ephesians 2:18

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We were designed to worship...someone or some thing
- All of our Curiosity, desires for growth, understanding, knowledge, grounding and beauty and awe are found in the triune God
- Jesus is inviting us to come away/spend time/ hang out with Him
 - Sometimes our busyness and distractions get in the way
 - We don't grasp the enormity of the invitation and his presence tends to be more theoretical
- Matthew 27:45-51
 - Context: Jesus' passion (suffering on our behalf) and he is on the cross
 - It was dark for 3 hours: It had to be scary, Jesus had just said "I am the Light of the world"
 - Jesus screamed, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"
 - Something in the cosmic realm that we can't fully understand
 - But we see Jesus' pain/anguish/sacrifice...this was his lowest point, his deepest misery
 - "We will adore where we cannot understand" - Spurgeon
 - All of our sin was laid on Jesus' shoulders
- v51 Everything changed
 - When Jesus gives up his spirit the curtain in the temple is torn (60 ft tall, 30 ft wide, 6-8 inches thick)
 - It was a barrier between God's presence and people
 - God made himself available to us...we now have TOTAL ACCESS to God
- But do we live like that?
 - We put up our own curtains
 - Between ourselves and God and between one another
- This is what A Church Without Curtains REMIX is all about (God is known and we are known and loved)
 - Honest about who we are
 - Spending time in the presence of God (Ephesians 2:18)
- Our perception of God skews our desire to accept his invitation to spend time with him (often our misconceptions are rooted in what we did or didn't experience with our earthly father)
- God has steadfast love for us
 - He delights in us, He knew us before the earth,, He formed you because he wants to be with you
 - He loves you because you are you
 - **YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER DESIRES TO BE WITH YOU**
- It starts with being honest...about where we are and who we are, what we really feel (with God and with one another)
- God is inviting us to be with Him and he has broken down every barrier to make it possible

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you been responding lately to Jesus invitation to spend time with Him?
2. Think of the time when you felt most connected/ in tune with God? What was it like? What were some of the makers of that time?
3. How does it make you feel that God has given you total access to Him through Jesus? What does that mean for your life?
4. What are the misconceptions about God that you struggle with the most? How do they prevent you from spending time with Him?
5. How are you going to respond to God's invitation to come away with him today? This week?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: 1 Kings 16 Tues: 1 Kings 17 Wed: 1 Kings 18 Thurs: 1 Kings 19 Fri: 1 Kings 20

Songs from the weekend: [Glory to Glory - Bethel Music] - [King of My Heart - John Mark McMillan] - [New Wine - Hillsong Worship] - [Sinking Deep - Hillsong Y&F]