

Sunday, January 12, 2020 - "You Asked For It - Week 2 - Is Jesus the Only Way?" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: John 14:1-6, Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:11-12, 1 Corinthians 15:32

- 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

- Foundations for this series: 1) There is absolute truth 2) The Bible is true & trustworthy 3) The Bible is authoritative
- Is Jesus the Only way?
 - Don't all religions lead to the same God?
 - Is Christianity the only true religion?
- How you answer this question drives how you live and organize your whole life
- 3 Possible positions (worldviews)
 - 1) Pluralism = one's own religion is not held as the exclusive source of truth
 - 2) Inclusivism = while one set of beliefs is absolutely true, other sets of beliefs have some element of truth
 - 3) Syncretism = combining, blending or merging different religious faiths
 - This was the achilles heel of the people of God
 - We also have the tendency to add things to or blend other things with the Gospel
- 2017 Barna Group Study: 75% of Americans identify as Christians → 55% said if you're generally a good person you go to Heaven → 80% (and 65% of regular church attenders) believe there are other non-christian religions that lead to Heaven
- 4th World view...Exclusivism = the doctrine or belief that one particular religion or belief system is true
 - There can be some truths in other religions (all truth is from God)
 - It can feel egotistical, exclusive and intolerant but how we feel about it doesn't decide if it's true or not
- 3 Questions
 - 1) Did Jesus claim to be the only way?
 - John 14:1-6...YES
 - This is the primary distinction between Christianity and other religions...others are behavior based
 - 2) Did the Apostles say Jesus was the only way (YES...Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:11-12)
 - 3) How do we know Jesus' words are true?
 - He fulfilled over 300 specific/detailed Old Testament prophecies
 - And ultimately because he rose from the dead...if he did this all his claims are true. If he didn't then it's all a farce
 - The apostles were willing to lay down their lives or the risen Jesus
- We have been entrusted with a great truth
 - Go into the world and share the truth
 - Not about being exclusive and keeping people out BUT Inviting people in
- Being good enough is not enough. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life

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

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is the only way?
2. Was there ever a time when you held one of the 3 positions Doug mentioned? Explain
3. How have you come to believe that Jesus claim to be the way, the truth and the life is in fact true?
4. If Jesus is the only way, how is God asking you to think about the way you engage others?
5. Do you believe that you have been entrusted with a great truth? How does this affect the way you live?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

Mon: Luke 16 Tues: Luke 17 Wed: Luke 18 Thurs: Luke 19 Fri: Luke 20

Songs from the weekend: [You Are Good - *Israel Houghton*] - [Everlasting God - *William Murphy*] - [King of My Heart - *John Mark McMillan*] - [God Is Good - *Jonathan McReynolds*] - [Agnus Dei - *Michael W. Smith*]