

Sunday, March 8, 2020 - "You Asked For It - Week 10 - Abdu Murray Interview"

**Key Passages:**

- 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**

- Post-Truth Culture
  - One that elevates feeling and preferences over facts and evidence
  - Post modernism = there is no objective truth
  - Post truth = Truth exists but feelings matter more
  - Adam and Eve were first post-truth people (they wanted to be God instead of be with God)
- Freedom vs. Autonomy (these are not the same)
  - Autos = self... accountable to no one
  - When preferences clash who wins?
- Pantheism world view (Pan = All, theos = god → "All is one and all is god")
  - Hinduism, buddhism, scientology are all about the escape from pain
  - Life is an aillison, somewhere inside of you is the divine spark...we are all god
  - Karma...what we say matters
- Is the Bible the inerrant, inspired word of God?
  - What does this mean? thousands of early copies with a few variants
  - In all that it teaches and affirms the Bible is inerrant (that doesn't mean it doesn't have some copying mistakes)
  - It is inspired (not "dictated" by God)
    - You hear the style/personality of the authors
    - God uses background of the people writing to communicate and convey certain things
- Do I have to believe in a literal 7 day creation without taking liberties with the Bible?
  - What does "literal" mean (Jesus: I am the door..he literally is the door to the Father, but is not a door on hinges)
  - We can interpret the Genesis creation story in different ways
    - Day = yom
    - Could mean a 24 hour day or could mean an "age"
    - "A slow miracle is still a miracle" - Abdu Murray (the Bible doesn't talk about the mechanisms for creation)
  - The Bible leaves options open (earth is a few thousand years old, earth is billions of years old)
- Why is God so angry in the Old Testament and loving in the New Testament?
  - God redeemed Adam and Eve immediately
  - To be a God of love He has to be a God of justice/judgement
  - He constantly took the people of Israel back after they broke their covenant with Him
- If God is love, why is there so much bad stuff in the world?
  - This questions is not academic, it is always personal
  - Morality can't be defined by human opinion because we have gotten it wrong so many times
  - Things aren't moral/immoral, people are → objective/transcendent morality has to be rooted in a person → God
  - God is a transcendent/objective moral being (above human opinion and thought)
  - Free Will
    - If we have no ability to reject God, we have no ability to accept Him (the only way love is possible)
    - People can choose to do what God wants or not (evil)

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

1. Have you wrestled with any of these questions or others that Abdu answered? How has God spoken to you?
2. Why do you think we can sometimes elevate feelings/preferences over truth?
3. What do you think are the ramifications of God defining morality instead of us?
4. How do you process the difference between freedom and autonomy?
5. What has your journey with suffering been like? What has God taught you about suffering or evil and His own goodness?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

**Mon: Genesis 12:1-4a Tues: Psalm 121 Wed: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Thurs: Matthew 17:1-9 Fri: Luke 20:19-47**

**Songs from the weekend: [The Way - Pat Barrett] - [Great Jehovah - Travis Greene] - [Because of Who You Are - Martha Munizzi]**