

Sunday, January 31, 2021 - "Remarkable - Week 3: Life or Death" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Mark 2:1-3:6, Deuteronomy 30:15, 19

- 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

- Mark is a great story teller
 - In these opening chapters the plot thickens
 - The teachers of the law emerge as the villains and the pharisees plot to kill Jesus
- 2 responses to Jesus:
 1. the crowds revere him and are astonished by what he is saying and doing (amazed at his authority)
 2. The religious leaders challenge his authority (this contention fuels the hostility)
- Jesus is dismantling religious systems and traditions
 - Fasting: the rules said every two days, Jesus said not while he was around
 - He didn't come to patch a broken system (new wine in old skins), but rather to make it new (new wineskins)
 - Everything would be different going forward
 - A new way...better and more accessible to all
- The paralytic healed
 - Jesus has the authority to forgive sins
 - To prove it...he heals the man
 - Jesus is challenging the status quo and claiming He is God
- Jesus calls Levi and has dinner with sinners and tax collectors
 - Dinner defined social boundaries (Jesus said "You are in" to everyone)
 - System = clean and unclean don't mix (you're in or you're out)
 - We realize we are all sinners it levels the table
- Fasting and the Sabbath
 - Sabbath is for YOU..it is a gift and an invitation
 - Sabbath keeping → to draw closer to God, do what brings you life
 - Jesus was challenging the the leaders' authority over how people would practice the sabbath
 - He then goes against their rules by healing a man's hand on the Sabbath
- "The clash with authority is not over the rules but over who rules." - William Willimon
- When thinking about the religious leaders, instead of thinking "How could they do that?" ask the question, "How am I just like them?"
- Spiritual practices are not about DOING but about BEING with the Father
- Deuteronomy 30:15, 19
 - Religious practices out of duty/obligation = death, a heavy burden
 - Being WITH God THROUGH them = life

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

1. What does Sabbath look like for you and your family?
2. Who is sitting at your table? How is God asking you to expand your table?
3. How are you doing at hanging out with Jesus versus checking a religious box? How is God inviting you to something different?
4. Have there been times when you were just like the religious leaders? How so?
5. How is God calling you to experience Life through spiritual practices versus the burden of obligation and duty?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

Mon: Mark 5 Tues: Mark 6 Wed: Mark 7 Thurs: Mark 8 Fri: Mark 9

Songs from the weekend: [Your Great Name - *Todd Dulaney*] - [Promises - *Maverick City Music*] - [Jesus We Love You - *Bethel Music*] - [Build My Life - *Housefires*]