

Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #17 - Underlying Feelings

Study Questions for Groups & Individuals

OPENER:

Pretend you've found a magic wand which enables the bearer to get a better handle on one overwhelming feeling they have in life. Pass the wand (a pen or pencil) around so everyone in the group has a chance to say which feeling they'd use it on. Each person sharing why the change is important & how it would benefit life.

OPENINGPRAYER:

1. Pray for another person & what they shared concerning the opener above.
2. Pray for Jen & Kathleen going to the Middle East - less than 3 weeks away!
3. Pray for John Samara from Ananias House (part of the Kinship Network) who will be sharing at Six:Eight on May 20th about their ministry in Syria.
4. Pray for Narberth Pres., (Steve Weed, pastor) and their congregational meeting on June 10th - they are seeking to leave their denomination due to the PCUSA's abandonment of Scriptural authority & their drift from a Christo-centric message.

DISCUSSION:

In the book of James he states...¹⁶ *For where you have envy & selfish ambition, there you find disorder & every evil practice. (3:16) And 4:1-2 say...What causes fights & quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel & fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.*

1. Did the marriage story of socks on the floor resonate with you?
 1. Have you seen relationships degrade over small issues due to how they communicate & produce underlying feelings?
 2. Describe situations, being discreet of course, where you've seen this happen, maybe in churches, or at work, in friend & family relationships?
 3. We said thoughts produce feelings, what are the thoughts people get obsessed with in these situations towards someone else?
 4. Discuss what it means to stop the 'cycle of fighting' & address underlying issues instead of the conflict itself. And why is this helpful & the only way forward?
2. In your own words, what is our purpose as Christians?
 1. Look at the following verses after you state your ideas, and see if they match.
 1. Matthew 6:10, 24:14 & 28:18-20, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 4:1-2, John 6:27-29, can you identify others?
3. How do the James' verses derail us from our ultimate goal to glorify Christ among the Nations?
 1. What takes your attention away from your purpose in Christ? What desires, feelings, passions, life issues?

2. How can you see change in this area? What are some practical things you can do to bring your attention back to the face of Jesus?
4. How does Ephesians 6:12 inform us in our relationship with others?
 1. Where does it put our focus? And how can we change how we view others in light of this?
5. Proverbs 10:18 says, *“He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”*
 1. What are your thoughts on this?
 2. How do we communicate our anger or other feelings to someone in healthy ways in light of this verse and Ephesians 6:12?
6. Read James 4:1-3 again, what does it mean to go to God to find satisfaction? What does that do to us in relation to others around us?
7. Read together the following verses and discuss what they mean to you in light of our communal life with others: Matthew 5:48, 1 John 4:16-21, Romans 13:14, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:8-10.
8. Do 2 Peter 1:3, and Mt 6:33 encourage you in this process, how?