

Not a fan

Lesson 3: Choosing Intimacy

Opening Prayer

Introductions Share with the group any experiences you had this past week as you attempted to follow Jesus. When do you feel closest to him?

Watch Lesson 3: Choosing Intimacy (DVD title: "What must I do?" (Space for notes)

Discuss:

1. What do you make of the symbolism of Darren tossing the heart back into the box and eventually passing it on to Kyle?

Have someone read Matthew 19:16-30 out loud while everyone else closes their eyes and listens to the story.

2. This young man went away sad? Why is that? He still had his money, status and all the freedoms that come with those privileges.
3. Jesus said it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. How is that? In Jesus' day it was the rich who were considered to be blessed by God. You wouldn't be rich if you weren't in favor with God! The rich also had the time to read and study the Scriptures. The rich had the money to give large amounts to the Temple and to the poor, currying favor with God. The guy claimed to know all the commandments and felt that he kept them. So why would it be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God given all these advantages?
4. Read verse 29. Some people think and some preachers preach that God is some kind of spiritual lotto. Invest in His work and God guarantees you'll receive a hundred-fold return. That's a pretty good investment but is it true? How are we to understand this statement?

For personal reflection:

The problem wasn't that the man had money; the problem was money had him. Has anything ever "had" you? What was it like? Does something still have you today? If God were to ask you to give everything you have away, would you be willing to do it?

Discuss the Sermon

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. In our culture, what signals relational intimacy and what communicates relational distance? What norms, if broken, communicate coolness or disrespect?
3. Read the passages provided and reflect on God's intimate knowledge of you:

"And I will put my Spirit in you..." Ezekiel 36:27

*You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.*

*² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

*⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely. Psalm 139:1-4*

4. Have you pulled the love of God into your heart so you:
 - a. Confess to God everything. You stop hiding things from God.
 - b. Have a healthy view of yourself.
 - c. No longer allow what others say to affect you.
 - d. Are able to trust him completely.
 - e. No longer feel guilty about your devotional life.
5. What helps you connect, experientially, to the love God has for you? Share a time you grasped His love for you.

Close by praying specifically for those in your group.