



## **Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #11 - Followers Study Questions for Groups & Individuals**

### **OPENER:**

Have you seen *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri* which was used in the opening of the sermon? If so, describe/discuss the lawlessness, hopelessness, increase of violence, etc., and how that comes out of a WorldView which is devoid of God.

Discuss how it is possible that very intelligent people can also be imprisoned by a worldview which they do not even recognize they live within; like a fish which doesn't think about the water it swims in.

Discuss how it is possible that in the restrictive nature of some Scripture that God may be actually speaking protection to us. (think of the 10 Commandments) How is this seen in our parenting of our own children?

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

#### **Let's pray for our women's team going to the Middle East!**

Please pray for the three Six:Eight women who will be attending the **Syrian Women's Conference** coming up in early June. There will be a total of about 20 women going from various partner churches.

1. Pray for exactly the right Syrian women to be selected to come & be discipled, trained & refreshed.
2. Pray for the \$50,000 needed for this project. Committed to date: \$30,000 (of which Six:Eight has committed \$5,000).
3. Pray for strong preparation & training before they leave.
4. Ask that prayer & financial support would come in quickly & with ease.
5. Pray for protection against spiritual attack given they are enemy challenging territory.
6. Pray for physical, emotional & spiritual protection over them & their families throughout the time of preparation, through & after their trip.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Briefly...one of the men & one of the women who attended the retreats, share what your experience was like, how you saw God move, and what has been lingering in your heart since?

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Read these passages aloud: Romans 8:7-8, 10:17, 12:1-2, John 3:5-7 & Philippians 2:13  
Discuss the divine nature of the work God does in & through us.

1. How can that happen, and why does it not happen with others?
2. Recall how God used the limited knowledge you had of Christ & the biblical accounts, to move in your heart to bring about salvation in you....

1. How were others influential in your story?
2. What role did the Scriptures play? Or have they played in your life?
3. And how did God confirm the Scriptural story/The Gospel through a real experience with the Holy Spirit?

In our day & age, there is a lot of arguing going on. How does the Christian handle that?

Read through & discuss 2 Timothy 2:22-26 for some direction in this area.

*Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **23** Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. **24** And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

1. What are the do's & don'ts here?
2. What is the goal of the Christian in conflict with another?
3. What must happen in us first before we can enter into healthy mature discussion with others?
4. What's a foolish & stupid argument? Why do they just produce quarrels?
5. Discuss how the Christian is called to lead others to see beyond their worldview, and view the world through a different reality (the eyes of Christ).
6. Look back again at Acts 17, the story of Paul witnessing to the Areopagus - Acts 17:16-34.
  1. How did he challenge their worldview?
  2. What did he use to do it?
  3. What was the result?
7. How does Luke 6:37-40 play into all this discussion?

### **Pray together for the following things...**

1. For the hopelessness, violence & promiscuity in our culture to do it's job in waking people up to their need for Christ.
2. For our region, and Six:Eight's influence in it - pray for people to come to faith through our ministry this year - How many? Ask the Holy Spirit for that...
3. Pray for our commitment to the holiness & purity which the Scriptures call us to, in order that we would be freed to do Kingdom work.
  1. Pray for continued deepening of the men & women after the retreats.
4. Pray for Six:Eight to learn exactly how to engage without entering into foolish, useless & stupid arguments, that we would have wisdom to be able to navigate the very troubled waters of our culture in order to share Jesus clearly.
5. Pray for certain people in your lives you'd like to see come to faith!!