

## Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #16 - Those Pesky Feelings

### Study Questions for Groups & Individuals

#### OPENER (muy importante!):

This weeks opener is a bit different...we're hoping each group can help in making a short video for the beginning of the service *no more than 30-45 seconds long*. The purpose is to get people to understand the service is about to start, it's time to get your drink, grab food, wrap up conversations & get seated. This is in order that we can utilize our worship time together to its fullest potential. Your video will be played at 9:28, two minutes before service start on a few Sundays over the coming weeks. Here is what you need to do...

1. Delegate the following statements to be said by various people in your group, one right after the other in this order...
  1. Welcome to Six:Eight! (Said by everyone all together)
  2. We're glad you're here! (Person 1)
  3. Our community group meets on \_\_\_\_\_ night at \_\_:\_\_pm... (Person 2)
  4. We'd love to have you! (Person 3)
  5. Worship begin in less than 2 minutes! (Person 4)
  6. Grab coffee & wrap up conversations! (Person 5)
  7. And let's make the most of our time in worship today! (Person 6)
2. Practice this a few times, then **film it on a cell phone in horizontal format** with all of you in view the whole time (which means you'll have to prop the cell phone up somehow). You can certainly play with the dialogue, but the essence of the above should be there. So feel free to tweak if need be.
3. Once you get a good recording, somehow send that to Jordan. THANKS!

#### OPENINGPRAYER:

1. Let's pray for our women's team going to the Middle East!
2. 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.
3. Give thanks together for the work we see God doing in our midst!
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 drifting away from a Christo-centric message (CGL's can explain a little more).

#### DISCUSSION:

1. God speaks to this issue of our passions, desires & feelings...
  1. Look up Ro 14:17 / Galatians 5:24 / 1 John 2:15-17 / Php 3:18-19
2. Discuss what these verses mean to us in light of our spiritual lives?
  1. Do you struggle with things like food, drinking, addictions (even socially acceptable ones) which keep you from being obedient to Christ?
    1. Do you placate feelings through these things?
    2. Why is that harmful, even when it many times does not seem to be?
  2. What does 'Crucify the flesh with is passions & desires' mean?

1. How do we live in this but also be able to enjoy the God-given pleasures of life?
3. What does it mean to 'Love the World'? And how has that played out in your life, or where do you see that in community?
3. Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit remove & replace or modify wrong feelings in yourself? How did that come about, and what were the results in your life?
  1. How does that compare to just 'white-knuckling it'? And why is it that sheer will-power doesn't work?
4. Do a Lectio Divina reading of Romans 8:1-8 and discuss what the Holy Spirit highlights for each of us.
5. In the sermon it was said, "It's not enough just to *not want to sin*, but actually to pursue feelings which *lead away from sin*." Meaning we live a life which naturally avoids even the temptation to sin. Do you feel your life is getting easier in this area the closer you get to Jesus? Or is it still a deep struggle?
6. We said we want to have a *Vision* for a changed life, an *Intention* for it, and to utilize the *Means* God provides to attain it - do you believe God can change you? Do you feel a passion to see that happen? And understand the means to get there?
7. Look again at Luke 10:30-37 & discuss which character you would've been and why? Do you have a desire to be the Good Samaritan? Or, does that seem to far off for you?

## 16 Ruin to Renovation - Those Pesky Feelings

We ended our sermon this week with the story of the Good Samaritan. Focusing on the three characters of Priest, Levite & Samaritan, all three were governed in this situation by *feeling*. The Priest & Levite were governed by either disdain, fear, or self-centeredness. *Feelings drove them to disregard a man in need.*

The Samaritan however *felt* compassion. What was important to the Priest & Levite suddenly became unimportant to the Samaritan in light of the need before him. His own safety, differences, busyness & financial well-being took back seat to this man's situation.

Jesus tells this story with the Samaritan being the good guy given the disdain & racism the Priest & Levite would have felt towards a Samaritan - all the negative ideas & images they would have grown up with in how their people regarded Samaritan peoples. But the Samaritan is the one who was 'the neighbor' of the man who fell to robbers.

We want to gain a vision here at Six:Eight like the Samaritan, in which our *feelings are in line with the heart of God towards all peoples* in order that we'd respond as God would towards others with little to no thought!

Right now we might react to life's situations in the priestly or levitical way, allowing the fears, busyness & self-preservation to dictate choice & action. We want our *Vision* of Christ to be so clear, our *Intention* to follow Him becomes real, played out through the *Means* of spiritual formation...and in doing so, we become more & more like Jesus in all situations.

### A PERSONAL PRAYER EXERCISE:

8. Read slowly & prayerfully through this story once. Highlight words, phrases & thoughts which stick out to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak words of wisdom, compassion & love.
9. Then ask the Holy Spirit to identify a people group you have negative feelings towards - it may be a social group, a racial group, a religious group, or possibly persons in positions of authority. Invite the Holy Spirit to heart surgery on your feelings towards them.
10. Now read it again with that in mind replacing the Samaritan to be a person of that social group; realizing - we have all believed lies about others. We've allowed those lies to dictate our feelings towards individuals.
11. Pray God would give you a healthy appreciation for that group of people. Knowing he created them too in His Image, glories in the differences, and when we look with disdain on a people, we look with disdain upon God.
12. Confess to the Lord your wrongful attitudes & feelings towards them. Ask the Holy Spirit to replace those feelings, ideas & images with healthy good godly ones.
13. Thank Him for what he is doing in your heart!

### Luke 10:30-37

*"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.*

*<sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

*<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

*<sup>36</sup> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" <sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*