



HERITAGE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Missional Community Discussion Week of February 5th

Opening thought:

Diets, schedule adjustments, or change of scenery may provide temporary relief, but real change happens from the inside/out. What could be the benefit of being vulnerable and brutally honest with ourselves as we take a look inward? I wonder if this inward focus could lead us to experience a revelation that could become a catalyst for REAL CHANGE? "Real Change" doesn't happen from the outside in but the inside/ out. We begin this series with a discussion on addictions. By the time we are done today, we will come to realize that most if not all of us are addicted to something. However, we will come to learn that there is hope in breaking the cycle of chaos.

Questions to discuss:

1. When you hear the word addiction, what comes to mind?
2. Addictions: "things that we do that we don't want to do but that we can't stop doing." How might addictions affect our lives?
3. Have you or someone you know been affected by addiction? If so, in what way?
4. What addictions might be more accepted in culture than others?
5. We said that at the foundation of every addiction is IDOLATRY. We defined Idolatry as "anything that we have allowed to have a place of importance on the throne of our heart above God." If you are brutally honest, what idol(s) might you personally struggle with?
6. Jesus used two words in Matthew 17:17 to describe the hearts of his disciples: Faithless and Corrupt. How did Pastor Sid define those two words in his sermon? (**Faithless**-not connected enough to God. **Corrupt**- too connected to the world.)
7. What was Jesus's antidote for dealing with not being connected enough to God and too connected to the world? (Matthew 17:21 which isn't included in some translations like the NLT because some early manuscripts omit vs 21. In the KING JAMES, NKJV, AMP translation and in the parallel story in the book of mark 9:29, we find "But this kind of demon won't leave except by prayer and fasting")
8. Define Prayer. Define Fasting. (**Prayer**: intimacy with God through effort. **Fasting**: intentional disconnect from anything that has become an idol.)

Looking ahead:

When we are vulnerable enough to take an honest look at what is going on inside, maybe we would experience a revelation that would become a catalyst for real change. Are you willing?

Challenge:

When you identify an "idol(s)", are you willing to set aside a time to remove yourself from the daily routine and pray as well as fast for the purpose of disconnecting from that idol that has taken priority over God. When and how will you follow through on this challenge?

Read through the New Testament in 2017 - This week's reading - Matthew 26 - Mark 2



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February 5, 2017

SERMON SERIES: Inside - Out

“Real change begins ” _____ ”

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Romans 7:21-23 NLT

Cycles of _____

-Part of _____

- _____ gets darker

-Any _____ to my struggle becomes personal

- _____ of life

- We seek to ease _____ by getting the next fix

Question of the day: Is it possible to break the cycle of chaos? If so, how?

IDOLATRY “Anything that we have allowed to have a place of _____ on the throne of our heart above God”

How foolish are those who manufacture idols. These prized objects are really worthless. The people who worship idols don’t know this, so they are all put to shame. Who but a fool would make his own god—an idol that cannot help him one bit? Isaiah 44:9-10 NLT

He burns part of the tree to roast his meat and to keep himself warm. He says, “Ah, that fire feels good.” Then he takes what’s left and makes his god: a carved idol! He falls down in front of it, worshiping and praying to it. “Rescue me!” he says. “You are my god!” Such stupidity and ignorance! Their eyes are closed, and they cannot see. Their minds are shut, and they cannot think. The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, “Why, it’s just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a piece of wood?” The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He trusts something that can’t help him at all. Yet he cannot bring himself to ask, “Is this idol that I’m holding in my hand a lie?” Isaiah 44:16-20 NLT

WHAT IS YOUR IDOL?

At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him.” Jesus said, “You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well. Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, “Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?”

- 1. Faithless: not connected enough to God**
- 2. Corrupt: too connected to the world**

“You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.” However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Matthew 17:14-20 (NKJV)

How do I become more connected to God & less connected to the world?
_____ and _____.

A. Prayer: _____ us to God.
_____ with God through effort.

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. may your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us, and don’t let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one. Matthew 6:9-11

How to Pray:

1. _____ God’s greatness
2. Surrender your _____.
3. Declare your _____.

B. Fasting: Disconnects us from the World; disconnect from idols

Resources:

1. 7 Steps of Successful Fasting by Dr. Bill Bright
2. Daniel Plan

INSIDE/OUT “Because If we were vulnerable enough to take an honest look at what was going on inside, maybe we would experience a revelation that would become a catalyst for real change”