

Philippians 2:19-20 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

Intro

- Prayer points for students going to Hume Lake
 - Theme
 - This summer we will focus on God's redemptive plan throughout the grand narrative of scripture as He rescues His people from the curse of sin and will one day restore all things. Our hope is that as we seek to know God more, our love for Him will grow which result in a life fully surrendered to him.
 - Prayer Points
 - Pray for safe travel to and from Hume.
 - Pray for that students would indeed see the Lord's goodness and mercy towards them in Christ, that they would love him more and surrender their full lives to him.
 - Pray for their camp speakers Chris Brown and TJ McDaniel, that the Lord would give them a sensitivity to the Spirit and the unique ability to minister to our students.
- Prayer points for VBS
 - Themes
 - When you're lonely . . . Jesus rescues
 - When you worry . . . Jesus rescues
 - When you struggle . . . Jesus rescues
 - When you do wrong . . . Jesus rescues
 - When you're powerless. . . . Jesus rescues
 - Prayer Points
 - Pray that Jesus would rescue children who do not know him from their sin and powerlessness to overcome sin.
 - Pray that Jesus would use these boys and girls as agents of rescue to their family, classmates and friends.
 - Pray for parents that they would continue to build on the foundation laid by this week of Vacation Bible School.
- Starling Murmurations
 - Theoretical physicists from the University of Rome found that what makes that causes the starlings to perform as one unit is that they constantly pay up close attention to the six or seven other starlings closest two them.

- Read Philippians 2.5-11
- Table of Contents
 - Christlikeness found in Timothy
 - Christlikeness found in Epaphroditus

Christlikeness found in Timothy (v.19-24)

- A brief history of Timothy and the Philippians
 - Acts 16.1-5
 - Validating Timothy
 - Unparalleled in his concern for the Philippians
 - His commitment as a slave to the Gospel and his sonship to Paul

Christlikeness found in Epaphroditus (v.25-30)

- Fellowship in work and suffering
 - My brother- affection
 - My fellow worker- colaborer in the Gospel
 - My fellow soldier- shares my suffering; in the battle with me

Implications

- Learning like Rosetta Stone
 - Humility and selflessness is so foreign to the Roman way of life that Paul needs to create associated images to explain the terms.
 - The teaching method of Rosetta Stone.
 - The best teacher is neither isolated effort nor exalted status it is unity with one another
- The motivation for servanthood and suffering
 - Hence no one will be a willing Prophet or Teacher, except he is persuaded that God is merciful- John Calvin, *Commentary on Jonah*

Communion

- 1 Corinthians 11.20-34a

Discussion Questions

Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.

Read Phil 2:19-30

1. At this point in the letter, Paul discusses his intentions to send two people to the Philippians.

a. How does Paul characterize each person?

b. How do they reflect or demonstrate Jesus' humility? Compare this text with Phil 2:5-11.

2. Pastor Mike suggested that he believes that, aside from simply sharing his intention to send these two guys, Paul is taking two familiar things (people that the Philippians know) and using them to illustrate something that is unfamiliar (Jesus' kind of humility).

a. How has God used various people and their examples to teach you about what true humility looks like?

b. What have you learned from these personal examples you have had? How have they impacted you?

3. Taking it a step further, Paul uses two examples of people who while well-known, are not "superstars": Timothy is not one of the apostles like Paul, and Epaphroditus was a messenger who got sick and almost didn't make it. Neither of them had the status or prestige of Paul or the appearance of success like Paul. We tend to put our attention on and value most those who have achieved a certain status or are more visible among us, and yet, Paul holds these guys up as examples.

a. Why are we so tempted to fixate on the "spiritual celebrities" among us and miss what we can learn from the many other Christians to sit around us each week?

b. How can we learn to do a better job of paying attention to one another and valuing the example and contribution of each person in the body of Christ?

4. We are not only called to follow and be instructed by other's examples, but we are also called to be an example to others. But in order to be an example

we have to be visible and open enough for others to be able to see and know us.

- a. In what ways are you allowing yourself to be seen and known?
- b. How do we do this without being arrogant and seeking attention?
- c. Who do you know that does this really well, and how do they do this?

5. Finally, it is a natural human tendency to want to find leaders who will take responsibility for things we don't want to do, and then expect them to do everything on our behalf. During the sermon it was observed that in the church that is not an option because the mercy of God transforms us and makes each one of us an ambassador for Christ. We cannot truly be example for Jesus unless we take this to heart.

- a. Where have you seen the mercy of God operating in your life? How have you seen God transform you and the things around you?
- b. How has this impacted you?
- c. If you honestly, reflect on your life, to what degree do you feel a sense of urgency and responsibility for the mission of the church? Why is that?
- d. How do we grow in our understanding, recognition and experience of the mercy of God?