

RESET Week 2 Brainstorm Session – Monday, February 23, 2009

Recap

Luke 7:18-24 John the Baptist needed to be RESET by Jesus. Jesus did not blast John, but encouraged him based on Isaiah.

Importance of questions and seeking needs to be reinforced on this journey. Important not to fix others in group. Model questions for all that do not need to be resolved.

Lord and Legend by Greg Boyd as resource (updated MacDowell)

ReJesus by Alan Hirsch book as resource. Used illustration.

Week 2:

Fairness as uncomfortable concept. We are worn down by fairness addiction. Effects our relationship with God profoundly.

Parable of being “in line”, we all believe we are first in line and should receive first. Barbara Brown Talor sermon “Beginning at the End” – we have received already. Rules of sports set up fairness.

Tell our own personal story of receiving grace (guide prompt #3) and what that meant for me.

What am I afraid of if I engage people in grace versus fairness – Tony Campolo’s 3am birthday party for prostitute. Luke 15: 11-32.

Prodigal God by Tim Keller Father ran – humility of running to greet and protect son from others stoning him. Every other religion is based on Fairness – keeping score – leading to bitterness long term. Only Jesus is grace. We need humble, inferiority to receive grace.

Grace vs. mercy definition

Mass murderer accepting God at last minute is not fair.

We do not raise our kids “fairly “ even if we try, but even as we state “life is NOT fair!” we do not apply that to ourselves and our lives. Grace is out of control. What if we lose it? Will God be there long term?

Personal story of when you did not receive grace can teach about the opportunity to grant grace to others.

When you give grace you are superior, powerful, dominant, when we need grace we are inferior so we struggle to receive grace. We are not in control when we need it.

“Surrender to Love” book by David Benner. We are not to surrender to God’s will but really to His LOVE. We are to do both over time, but love first.

Jesus is not our God if we cannot receive His grace. Jesus is not really superior and source of all life if we can not receive Him. We are afraid of looking inadequate.

Buddist/Prodigal Son - Contrasting stories to show grace. (Google it.)

Bono’s quote on “Karma vs. grace”

Movie clip from “Wave” when Kevin Costner gives his kids ice cream cone to the kid who had accosted his child. He said that “looked like they had not been given anything for a long time”.

Story of Mary’s birth unfair to her. Pharisees did not think Jesus was fair – he broke rules- trying to hold nation together through religion and Jesus did not honor them. Apostles did not get grace. Luke 24:40. Jesus opened their mind on “repentance and grace” – dependant on turning from sin and to Jesus.

We try to teach fairness to our kids. Why? Limited resources and transactional nature of love. Grace is 100% relational.

Examples in our Culture of lack of grace: Challenge of Obama’s cabinet issues. Tom Daschle’s tax issue requiring him to withdraw, who benefits from bailout?

Little League Baseball game.