

A Look At God's Heart

Case For Christ part, (Study of Mark's Gospel) part 16
February 13th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

1. Unlikely places can be F ...

The context: _____, _____, _____, _____
(Luke 8:27)

2. Regarding authority, it is not a F ...

(Ephesians 6:10-12)

3. God's authority provides F ...

(John 10:10, Galatians 5:1)

4. Accepting a "no" requires F ...

(Romans 8:1)

- **Our past can fuel our ...**
- **Our past can fuel our ...**
- **Our past can fuel our ...**

Why home is humbling and huge:

- **We are ...**
- **We can ...**

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our fifth week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 5:1-20, the disciples found themselves in an uncomfortable, awkward and possibly unsafe situation.

Speaking of a time where you were uncomfortable or feeling awkward or maybe even a time when you felt unsafe, what past experiences come to mind?

Also last Sunday in Mark 5, we saw that Jesus' authority is unmatched and any battle between good and evil where God is involved with is not a fair fight.

Speaking of authority, who has been a good example for you as person in authority and why?

Along with the qualities already mentioned, what else makes a good boss?

Jesus encouraged the man he met on the beach in Mark 5 to not leave with Jesus but to stay and go home to his friends tell his story and what Jesus has done for him.

Speaking of stories, what is part of your story where growing closer to God has made a positive difference in your life?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 5:1-20)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. This week we heard how God's authority brings freedom, not bondage or oppression.

How do the following verses expand what freedom in Christ means and the responsibility that comes with it?

John 8:31-36

Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Romans 6:17-19

2. Last Sunday, we reflected on how important and impactful it is when we live out our faith at home (meaning with those who know us best including family, close friends and co-workers).

God desires us to maximize the opportunities we have in having a positive impact on those around us and especially those closest to us. Living out our faith 'at home' can be humbling because if we're honest, we are our real selves at home and sometimes that can be messy.

Fortunately, Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, lays out a number of 'check points' to help them (and us) be affirmed and see what authentic faith in Jesus looks like.

Let's take a closer look at what Paul tells the Ephesians about living out their faith at home to encourage us on how we're doing and how God wants to help us make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Let's read and reflect on the following verses in Ephesians 4.

Eph 4:2 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Eph 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Eph. 4:14 - Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Eph. 4:19 - Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sexuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

Eph. 4:25 - Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Eph. 4:26 - In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Eph. 4:27 - and do not give the devil a foothold.

Eph. 4:31 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Eph. 4:32 - Be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

How do you think those that know you best have seen some positive movement in one or two of the above passages?

Which one or two areas would you like to see more improvement in?

3. An important element of a healthy home is a sense of safety and peace.

In fact, God calls us to 'seek peace and pursue it' (1 Peter 3:11, Colossians 3:15-16). It's important to note that the peace that is mentioned here doesn't just happen. It also doesn't mean compromising your convictions for the sake of peace, but it's something we actively pursue.

How do the following verses help us understand what pursuing peace look like?

Proverbs 15:1 and Proverbs 16:24

Romans 12:17-21

Galatians 6:1-5, 9

Colossians 3:13

Which of the above verses is most important for you to remember regarding pursuing peace?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?