

Waiting in Holiness

Insights on Exodus 32:1-35

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, May 21st, 2017

Not as bad as we may think...

(Exodus 32, James 1:2-8, Galatians 3:3, Matthew 6:24)

- God's delays either _____ or

- We are always _____ toward what we desire most.

- Idolatry is simply worshipping _____

What does holiness look like?

(Exodus 32:25-29, Proverbs 14:12, Daniel 1:8, 2 Chronicles 16:9, James 2:18-24)

1. It starts with a _____

- True discipleship doesn't _____,

- The pursuit of _____ will always kill our _____

2. It will always _____

3. It will always lead _____

- The two greatest enemies of holiness are:

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 4" of our Small Group Session!

This is a great opportunity for us to study God's word for personal growth, but also a chance to help others grow from our own experiences. Small groups will wrap up the week of June 11th for our summer break.

Getting Started:

1. Part of being in a small group is to celebrate spiritual victories together. As you look back over the past few weeks is there anything we can glorify God for in your life? Was there any steps of faith you have taken that we can celebrate together? Any acts of obedience to celebrate? Remember, small groups are a great place to share hurts and pains, but also encouragement as we step out in faith by sharing our faith with others.

2. Patience is a tough virtue for many people. Life sometimes doesn't move as fast as we want it to move, and sometimes God doesn't move as fast as we want him to move. Share a time when God didn't move as fast as you wanted Him to or thought he should. How did that situation effect your faith?

3. The Israelites probably thought Moses was dead on the mountain, but they were sure wrong! When was there a time you were wrong when you were positive you were right? What happened as a consequence of you being wrong?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. All too often we're turned off by the idea of being "holy" because of the negative associations we have with this word, including it being not fun, weird, too hard and unpopular. In reality, there are blessings for those who are set apart. What picture do the following verses paint that would counter negative associations of the word "holy"?

- Psalm 16:7-11
- Isaiah 40:31
- Psalm 84:11

Which of these verses is most encouraging to you in continuing to live a holy life? Is there anyone you can think of that needs encouragement to continue living a Holy life that you can share one of these verses with?

2. We saw that delays in our lives can either detour our faith or deepen our faith. Read the story of Jairus's daughter in Mark 5:21-43. Take note of the different delays that happen in this story. How would you feel if you were Jairus? What do you think happened to Jarius's faith after his daughter was raised?

After reading this story, how does reading stories like this help deepen your faith during delays? What does this passage teach you about God's timing and ours?

3. We saw this past weekend that holiness always starts with a firm decision. We don't just "fall into" discipleship, but we need to be very intentional about growing in holiness. Read the following passages: What do they teach us about holiness?

- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Psalm 139:23-24

What are some of the things we learn from these passages that will help us be more intentional about our holiness? Do any of these verses challenge you to pursue holiness in a different way this week?

4. Two of the greatest enemies of holiness are personal desires and popular opinion. Do you agree with these statements? How have you seen this to be true in your own life? How can you encourage those in your group with ways that you have pursued holiness in spite of personal desires and popular opinions?

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out? As you live this out be ready to share some "success" stories next week with your group!

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.