

Tour 1-Small Group Discussion

Tour 1: Creation - The Endgame

What Did You See?

Start by asking: 1. "What did you see?" then, simply ask, 2. "What struck you?"

1. "What did you see?"

- We talked about tending to run away from the face of God
- We looked at the first epoch: Creation
- We reiterated our quest to gaze upon the crown jewel in the nature of God
- We looked at the three questions, why did Jesus leave; why does God send; and what is God's endgame; and then a 4th: why did Jesus curse the fig tree
- We looked at the issue that it wasn't the season for figs and the pre-fig nut that the fig tree produces: the "tqash"
- We talked about how God always acts in accordance with His nature
- We looked at God's actions in creation where He created creatures, not simply to look good, but He equipped them, empowered them, and sent them to be creative agents
- We talked about "the problem of familiarity"
- We talked about how God created everything to be fruitful and that it all was to be done out of and through divine relationships
- We looked at the passage in Genesis that man was made to not only be fruitful, but also to be the cultivator of life
- We watched a vignette about the flourishing life God has created on the earth
- We looked at a lot of passages from Genesis to Revelation that God is the God of Life, charging all of His creatures to flourish
- Jesus talked often about fruitfulness
- We looked at the link between fruitfulness and glorifying God
- That the purpose of abiding in Christ was to be fruitful
- We talked about "Meo-Christianity" – where Christianity becomes all about me
- And "true-Christianity" – where it is all about Him and what He wants to do through me
- We looked at several "shocking" things: salvation is not God's endgame; abiding in Christ is not God's endgame
- We talked about God's endgame: that His creatures bear fruit and therefore bring glory to God

- We looked at the three ways that we are to be fruitful
 - Physically
 - Vocationally
 - the stories of the kid who wants to be a plumber and Luigi, shoemaker
 - the tendency to think that our vocation isn't valuable to the kingdom
 - Ministerially
 - The tendency to think that only pastors, missionaries, professional Christian ministries are the ministers
 - All of us are to be fruitful ministerially
- We talked about God being serious about His creatures being fruitful
 - Parable of the talents
 - Parable of the gardener and the fig tree
 - Jesus on burning the unfruitful branches
- We clarified that this is not talking about salvation, we are not saved by works, but saved for good works and fruitfulness
- We heard: truth is not God's endgame
 - it is easy for evangelicals to act as if it is
- We looked at the dead sea – living water flows in but nothing flows out
 - God doesn't want us to become a dead sea
- Selfishness blocks our fruitfulness along with skepticism and our hunger for significance
- We looked at the radical statement: I am not the endgame
- We looked at a series of passages that God desires for us to be fruitful, from creating us, abiding in Him and pruning us
- We even looked at the passage regarding being joined with Christ, Unio Mystica, for the purpose of being fruitful
 - our relationship with Christ is so that we might glorify God by being fruitful
- Haunting statement:
 - It's not about me; it all about Him and what He wants to do through me
- We are not the "lamp" of the world; we are the "light" of the world
- We heard interviews with people trying to answer the question: "Why am I here?"
- We revisited the question: why did Jesus leave?
 - That we would do greater works if He left
 - Dumb animals (like horses) just follow the leader
- We talked about Jesus leaving and then we were empowered by the Holy Spirit so that we might be fruitful
- We mentioned that this is the most difficult thing for us to grasp: that the fullness of God has

taken up residence within us

2. So, What struck you?