

Tour 2-Small Group Discussion

Tour 2: Fall - The River of Death

What Did You See?

First ask, “What did you see?”

- We looked at the second epoch: the Fall
- And everything tipping from life to death and decay
- Even the unbeliever knows something isn't right
- We looked at Romans 1, we groan under this; even the creation is frustrated and groaning
- The gravity of the fall pulls on everything in the opposite direction; we don't catch health
- Satan came with a counter-narrative; he is a liar and he counters life and fruitfulness and the glory of God
- The Cosmic battle is between truth and lie; the real war is between life and death
- Satan's ultimate scheme is to destroy relationships because that keeps us from being fruitful & glorifying God
- An isolated life is a fruitless life
- Satan is fine if you are a pretty green fig tree
- We looked at the illustration of downstream life & downstream death
- Satan tries to get us to believe false worldviews that attack God's truth and His Meta-Narrative
- When we lose the Meta-Narrative, we shrink up into our own little story, our own script
- We looked at three consequences of losing the Meta-Narrative of God:
 1. All about me and my script
 - Satan's promise is that we will be happy and significant if I can get my script fulfilled, but that is a hollow promise
 - Instead we end up frustrated, angry, worried and subject to a bunch of death emotions
 - We saw the vignette of the family each trying to get their scripts fulfilled
 - We talked about Ralph Maclean's story as a POW and return and the little girl's question
 2. Isolation and the loss of relationships
 - We heard from our interviewees about being lonely
 - We have a lot of contacts, but are increasingly lonely
 - We see each other as a salesman; everyone has an agenda
 - We looked at Jesus' statement that a grain of wheat remains alone until it falls into the earth and dies

- We saw the second half of the family vignette and the little girl burning her mom's script
- We looked at Isaiah 46 and that God brings about his plans
- We looked at Jeremiah 29:11 and the word "shalom"

3. Dependency vs. true freedom

- God distributes power and talent so that the smallest creature might flourish
- The enemy consolidates power and makes dependents, destroying the incentive to be fruitful
- We see this in the state and in the church, and it can happen in the family and the workplace
 - We talked about Ephesians 4 that the leaders are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry
- We talked about looking at our own personal gauges (story of Air Force simulator)
 - Do we manifest a lot of these dead emotions (anger, worry, frustration, etc.)?
 - Are we a complainer?
 - Are we a controlling person?
 - Satan is okay if we just polish the lamp; if we go to church; pray; read your Bible
 - As long as you are not bearing fruit, he will be happy with you, because there won't be any downstream life

Then ask, "What struck you?"