



Sermon Discussion Questions

I ♥ LKN: Jesus Loves High-Achievers

Mark 10:17-22

February 28, 2010

Have someone in the group read John 3:16 out loud for the group. Quietly listen. Now, have someone read it out loud again but a little slower. Quietly listen even more. One more time: have someone else read it but just a bit slower again. Digest it.

**As you heard this verse, what stood out to you each time?
Who did you think of when it said, “God so loved the world?”
Who are people it’s hard for you to believe are included in this?**

Today we will look at one person in the Lake Norman Area that God loves: the High-Achiever. **How would you define a “high-achiever”?**

Read Mark 10:17-22

(keep in mind that Matt 19 and Luke 18 tell us he is rich and a young ruler)

Mike said this morning that a typical high-achiever struggles with being a control-freak.

Who in the group would define themselves as “control-freaks”? What does that look like for you?

The Bible is filled with stories of people who didn’t get to control their life, let alone their spiritual life.

What are ways that you have tried to control your spiritual growth? Are their areas God is calling you to grow but you are saying no because you are unable to control that area?

(Examples: not tithing because you don’t have the money you need yet to feel comfortable to give; not going on a mission trip because you haven’t taken the trips you want to take; loving your spouse/family because you don’t have your business in order yet and they can suffer until that happens, etc...)

Read Mark 14:32-35

The Jewish belief was that there is a cup filled with all the sin of people that someone will have to drink. Jesus is the one taking that cup yet in his desires, he does not want to take it on. Yet a greater desire is to submit to His Father’s will.

What cup does God want you to drink that is really, really hard for you to drink from? In other words, what are things you know God is calling you to that are very hard to resist?

Controlling our spiritual life isn’t just in the big decisions. It also comes in the small things we do. In doing the small things, we sometimes think we have Jesus figured out, our growth figured out, thinking we know what God will ask us to do next or where Jesus will take us next.

Read this quote by Eugene Peterson from “The Jesus Way” page 242:

No matter how much we know, we don’t know enough to know what Jesus is going to do next. And no matter how familiar we are with the traditions and customs and privileges that go with being on God’s side, we aren’t familiar enough to know how Jesus fits into it. No religious skills that any of us acquire will ever produce resurrection, and no spiritual strategies that we work out will ever produce resurrection. Following Jesus doesn’t get us where we want to go. It gets us to where Jesus goes, where we meet him in resurrection surprise: “My Lord and my God!”

What stands out to you about Peterson's words?

The daily disciplines of the faith don't get Jesus to do what we want him to do, they simply help us to see where he is going next.

How does knowing this change the way you are to approach reading Scripture, praying, serving, going to church, etc...