





TIMELY WISDOM FOR TIMELY QUESTIONS

THERE IS TIMELESS TRUTH FOR EVERY TIMELY QUESTION.

THE CATCH IS WE'RE NOT ALWAYS SURE WHICH QUESTION TO ASK. OFTEN THE ONES THAT ROLL OUT OF HIS FIRST ARE PURELY BASED OUT OUR EMOTIONS. WE'RE FRUSTRATED THAT SOMETHING HARD HAPPENED TO US OR SOMEONE WE CARE ABOUT. OR WE'RE SAD THAT A DREAM WE'VE HAD FOR A LONG TIME HASN'T YET HAPPENED. SOON THAT FEELING IS WHAT WE WRAP OUR WHOLE MEANING OF LIFE IN – IF NOTHING CHANGES, WE'RE JUST... SORT OF... STUCK.

FEELINGS DO MATTER, BUT FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN THEM OR TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES CAN EASILY LEAD TO EXHAUSTION. WE FEAR THAT GOD IS SOMEHOW OVERLOOKING US, AND SOON WE'RE MAKING OTHER CONCLUSIONS THAT ARE BASED SOLELY ON THE LIMITED EXPERIENCES THAT LED US TO THAT POINT. BUT, JESUS INVITES US TO IMAGINE A DIFFERENT REALITY. INSTEAD OF FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN WHAT WE DO OR HOW TOUGH THINGS ARE, JESUS INVITES US TO COME AND

BY PASTOR **TONY** MYLES



LET'S START A CONVERSATION ABOUT **TOUGH STUFF**

JOB 1:1, 1:21, & 13:15

NOTICE THIS PERSON'S **TRUST** IN GOD NO MATTER WHAT

ROMANS 3:23 & LUKE 18:19

NOTICE HOW SIN IMPACTS ALL

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

NOTICE THE **HOPE** WE ALWAYS CAN HAVE

ROMANS 8:28

NOTICE THE **PROMISE** WE ALWAYS CAN CLAIM

GENESIS 50:19-21

NOTICE HOW EVIL CAN BE **FLIPPED** FOR GOOD

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-5

NOTICE GOD'S COMFORT

1 PETER 2:20-23

NOTICE JESUS' EXAMPLE

ROMANS 5:8

NOTICE JESUS' COMMITMENT

PROVERBS 3:5-6

NOTICE THE CHANCE FOR WISDOM



WHAT DO YOU NOTICE IN THESE VERSES THAT YOU COULD SHARE WITH SOMEONE WHO FELT LIKE LIFE WAS OVERWHELMING?

PSALM 31:15

NOTICE THAT GOD IS WHO OWNS OUR LIVES

JOB 1:21

NOTICE THAT GOD CAN BE **SOUGHT** ON ANY DAY

ECCLESIASTES 2:17

NOTICE WHAT WE PURSUE IMPACTS US

2 CORINTHIANS 1:9

NOTICE THAT OUR **POWER** COMES FROM GOD

ROMANS 10:13

NOTICE THAT JESUS' NAME HAS POWER

ROMANS 8:38-39

NOTICE GOD'S WITH US IF WE ARE IN HIM

LUKE 1:37

NOTICE YOU CAN **OVERCOME** ANYTHING WITH GOD

PSALM 50:15

NOTICE THAT SOME DAYS ARE TROUBLE

1 KINGS 19:4

NOTICE SOME GREAT GODLY **PEOPLE GET DOWN**

ISAIAH 61:1-3

NOTICE THAT SOME DAYS ARE FILLED WITH FAVOR

PSALM 32:8 & PROVERBS 18:24

NOTICE GOD GUIDES US

EPHESIANS 2:10

NOTICE THAT GOD SAYS YOUR LIFE HAS PURPOSE

QUESTION

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET SAID **YES** TO JESUS, THIS WORLD IS THE ONLY "HEAVEN" YOU'LL EVER KNOW, BUT IF YOU HAVE SAID **YES** TO JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM, THIS WORLD IS THE ONLY "HELL" YOU'LL EVER KNOW. SO, HAVE YOU SAID **YES** TO JESUS? AND WHAT DOES YOUR ANSWER MEAN?



LUST AND IDENTITY

TRY THIS (REALLY, DO THIS RIGHT NOW): COUNT UP ALL THE DIFFERENT MOVIES, TV SHOWS, VIDEOS ONLINE AND MORE YOU'VE WATCHED THAT SHOWED YOU TWO PEOPLE IN SOME SORT OF ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER. WOW, RIGHT? C'MON, WE KNOW ADDING THAT UP FEELS MPOSSIBLE... BUT IF YOU WERE GOING TO GET A BILLION DOLLARS FOR GIVING A REAL GUESS THAT WAS REMOTELY ACCURATE, WHAT WOULD THAT

NUMBER BE?

WHAT IF YOU ALSO INCLUDED ANYTHING THAT CLAIMED OR SHOWED THAT IT WAS SOMEHOW "OKAY" FOR TWO PEOPLE OF THE SAME GENDER TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP? HOW MANY FILMS, SHOWS, SOCIAL MEDIA PIECES AND MORE HAVE DIRECTLY OR SUBTLY

AGAIN, WRITE IT DOWN HERE



NOW, IF YOU WERE TO TOTAL HOW OFTEN YOU'VE SEARCHED THE BIBLE TO INTENTIONALLY LEARN OR REMEMBER WHAT GOD SAYS ON THIS TOPIC, WHAT MIGHT THAT NUMBER BE? (HEY... DON'T WORRY, THIS ISN'T ABOUT GUILT. IT'S ABOUT MATH. JUST BE HONEST.)



WRITE IT DOWN



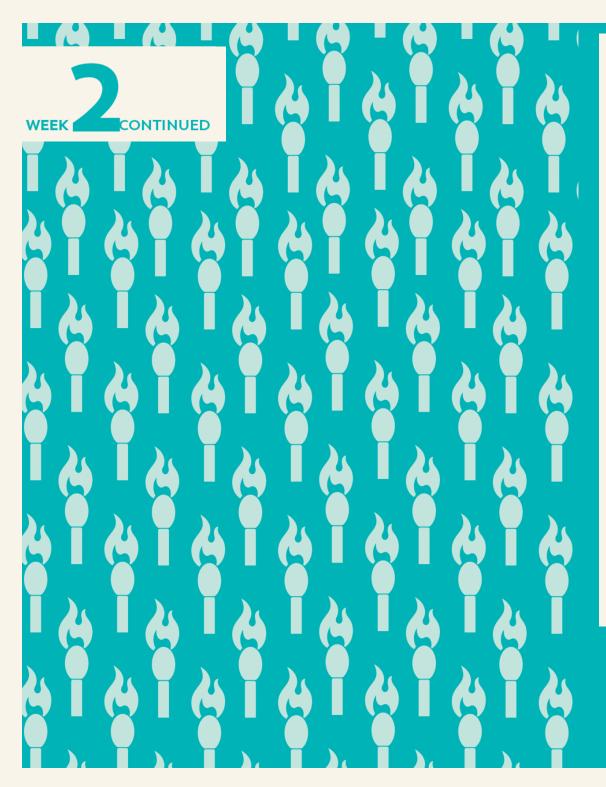
HERE'S WHY THIS MATTERS:





WE'RE CONSTANTLY BEING HANDED IDEAS THAT ENCOURAGE US TO "HOOK UP" WITH WHOMEVER OR WHATEVER "MAKES US HAPPY." SOON IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF WHAT WE THINK OR FEEL ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, BUT ALSO WHAT WE THINK OR FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES. IT'S WHY WE MAY NOT CORRECT OUR FRIENDS BECAUSE WE'VE BOUGHT INTO THE IDEA THAT THEM ATTACHING THEMSELVES TO WHATEVER FEELS GOOD TO THEM IS BETTER THAN THEM FINDING REAL JOY THROUGH A CLOSER ATTACHMENT TO JESUS. YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS – YOU EITHER LIVE FOR LUST (THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE), OR LIVE OUT OF BEING LOVED (KNOWING GOD PURSUES YOU).





WHAT DO YOU NOTICE IN THESE VERSES REGARDING GOD'S THOUGHTS ON LUST, IDENTITY, LGBTQ+ AND THE OPPOSITE SEX IN YOUR LIFE?

GENESIS 1:27

NOTICE GOD'S DESIGN FOR GENDER

GENESIS 2:24

NOTICE GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

GENESIS 19:1-13

NOTICE A SOCIETY THAT **IGNORES GOD** TO DO WHAT IT WANTS

MATTHEW 5:28

NOTICE HOW YOUR INTERNAL FOCUS MATTERS

ROMANS 1:18-32

NOTICE THE **MISUSE** OF FREEWILL AND WHERE IT CAN LEAD

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

NOTICE HOW WE UNDERSTAND "IDENTITY" IS TRANSFORMED BY JESUS WHEN WE **FOLLOW HIM**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18

NOTICE WE'RE TO FLEE AND NOT FEED LUST

GALATIANS 5:16

NOTICE THAT WE'RE TO LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

2 TIMOTHY 2:22

NOTICE A **PURE HEART** IS GREATER

JAMES 1:14-15

NOTICE THAT CURIOSITY AND TEMPTATION CAN BE REDIRECTED TO GOD **BEFORE** WE TURN IT INTO SIN

QUESTION

AFTER YOU TAKE THE TIME TO READ THROUGH THAT, IS YOUR ATTITUDE, "WHATEVER, I JUST THINK PEOPLE SHOULD DO WHATEVER THEY WANT" OR "GOD, WHATEVER YOU'VE SAID, HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU."

WEEK

LET'S START A CONVERSATON ABOUT

CANCEL CULTURE, RACISM AND

WHETHER IN LIFE OR ONLINE. WE'VE ALL SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE GETS OUTRAGED AT SOMEONE ELSE, WHETHER WHAT'S BEING SAID IS TRUE OR JUST THOUGHT TO BE TRUE. THE REACTION SEEMS TO BE THE SAME... THE PERSON WHO'S ANGRY TRIES TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE AS THEY CAN TO BE ANGRY WITH THEM AND SPEAK AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE TO GET THEM "CANCELED." MEANING, TO GET THE WHOLE WORLD TO TREAT THIS PERSON LIKE THEY'RE THE WORST OF THE WORST OF THE WORST.

KEEP IN MIND, GOD DOES CARE ABOUT MAKING THINGS BETTER WHEN A LEGITIMATE WRONG THING HAS HAP-PENED. THOSE WHO DO WRONG NEED TO BE RIGHTLY HELD RESPONSIBLE. BECAUSE ACTIONS HAVE CONSE-QUENCES. YET, GOD CALLS AND EMPOWERS US TO HAVE A DIFFERENT RESPONSE THAN OUR CULTURE.

HE ASKS US TO SEE WHAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS DONE AS A WAY TO EXAMINE OURSELVES... NOT TO FIND ALL THE GOOD WE'RE DOING, NOR TO IGNORE IT, BUT TO NOT USE IT AS A COVER-UP FOR OUR OWN SIN.

ONE VERSION OF CANCEL CULTURE IS RACISM. WHICH IS WHEN ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE TRY TO CIRCLE UP AGAINST ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE BY SAYING OR THINKING THINGS ABOUT THEM THAT TRY TO CANCEL THEIR GOD-

QUESTION: WHEN FACED WITH ANY OF THIS. HOW CAN WE POINT PEOPLE BACK TO JESUS BY WHAT WE SAY AND DO?









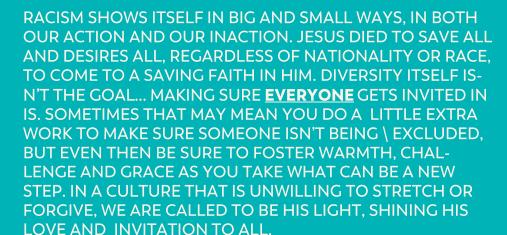












WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE TOXIC WAY WE **CAN TREAT OTHERS VERSUS GOD'S INTENT?**

GENESIS 1:29-30

NOTICE GOD WANTS US TO FILL THE EARTH

GENESIS 11

NOTICE GOD MOVING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

MATTHEW 25:31-40 & JOHN 13:34

NOTICE WE'RE TO CARE FOR ALL

JOHN 3:16

NOTICE JESUS CAME FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

ROMANS 2:11. GALATIANS 3:28

NOTICE GOD SEES ALL

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 & PROVERBS 16:18

NOTICE OUR OWN PRIDE

COLOSSIANS 3:15

NOTICE THE PEACE GOD GIVES

PSALM 1

NOTICE HOW TO BE ROOTED)

PROVERBS 22:24-25

NOTICE THE TEMPTATION TO BE A CRITIC

HEBREWS 4:16

NOTICE OUR OWN NEED FOR GRACE



LET'S START A CONVERSATON ABOUT **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

NOT TO MAKE THINGS WEIRD, BUT YES, SATAN IS REAL.

TAKE THAT IN.

THE GREATEST TRUTH YOU CAN EVER REALIZE IS THAT YOU HAVE A PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD IN JESUS CHRIST. ONCE YOU SAY YES TO HIM AND BEGIN TO FOLLOW HIM, YOU IMMEDIATELY WANT TO ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ALSO HAVE A PERSONAL ENEMY IN HIS ENEMY. KEEP IN MIND, FOR ALL THE POWER SATAN HAS (WHICH, BY THE WAY, HE DOES), COMPARED TO GOD IT'S NOTHING... LIKE ONE GRAIN OF SAND COMPARED TO A UNIVERSE OF BEACHES. STILL, THAT GRAIN OF SAND CAN ALL BY ITSELF SCRATCH AT YOU, BLIND YOU, MAKE YOU WALK DIFFERENTLY, CAUSE YOU TO SQUIRM AND MORE.

WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO JUST "TAKE IT," THOUGH? WHAT IF GOD HIMSELF GAVE YOU TRUTH AND HIMSELF INSIDE OF YOU TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY? THIS IS WHAT "SPIRITUAL WARFARE" IS. IN FACT, THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY ERRORS WE CAN MAKE WITH IT - OVER-EMPHASIS AND UNDER-EMPHASIS. IT'S NOT ALWAYS RIGHT TO BLAME EVERY STRUGGLE OR SIN ON SATAN ATTACKING US WHEN SOMETIMES WE'RE THE ONES WHO CHOOSE TO TAKE STEPS THAT PUT US INTO THOSE SITUATIONS. LIKEWISE, WE DO OURSELVES A DISSERVICE WHEN WE COMPLETELY IGNORE THAT WE ARE BATTLING AGAINST SPIRITUAL CREATURES WHO LIVE IN A SPIRITUAL REALM THAT OVERLAPS WITH THE ONE WE SEE WITH OUR EYES. GOD WANTS YOU TO EACH DAY NOT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BATTLING ALL OF THIS WITHOUT HIM, BUT THROUGH HIM...



... WHICH IS WHY THE GREATEST THING YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT THAT "GRAIN OF SAND" THAT SATAN IS MIGHT BE TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN JESUS (ALSO KNOWN AS THE "LIVING WATER") EACH DAY.THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE), OR LIVE OUT OF BEING LOVED (KNOWING GOD PURSUES YOU).

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT WHO THE ENEMY IS AND HOW GOD EMPOWERS YOU TO FACE HIM?



JOB 1:6-7

NOTICE THAT SATAN IS PERSONAL

JOB 38:4-7

NOTICE THAT GOD IS WAY MORE POWERFUL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

NOTICE JESUS OVERCOMES SATAN WITH TRUTH

MATTHEW 9:32-33; 12:22; 17:18

NOTICE PEOPLE CAN BECOME POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14

NOTICE SATAN DISGUISES HIMSELF WELL

JOHN 12:6

NOTICE PEOPLE OPEN THEMSELVES UP TO POSSESSION

1 CORINTHIANS 16:9

NOTICE CHRISTIANS HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1JOHN 4:4

NOTICE CHRISTIANS HAVE OVERCOME THE ENEMY

GENESIS 2:17, PHILIPPIANS 4:8

NOTICE WE'RE NOT TO FOCUS ON EVIL IN WAYS THAT INVITE IT INTO OUR MINDS

EPHESIANS 6:10-19

NOTICE WE CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST EVIL

QUESTION: SATAN WANTS YOU TO LIVE DEFEATED AND IN FEAR, BUT GOD WANTS YOU TO FIND LIFE IN ATTACHING YOURSELF TO HIM. WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT, AND HOW WILL IT HELP ONE OF THEM TO WIN IN THE BATTLE OVER YOU TODAY?

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