

Making Easter More Than A Holiday

Two Truths And A Lie About Life Right Now:

Romans 8:18-28 Hebrews 12:1-3 2 Corinthians 4:17

- [**T**] Things shouldn't **be this way**.
- [**T**] Something better is **still to come**.
- [**F**] Everything is going to **work out OK**.

Two Lies And A Truth About Me Right Now:

Mark 7:31-37 10:27 Luke 1:35-37 Philippians 4:13

- [**F**] My situation is **impossible**.
- [**F**] God wants **nothing** to do with my **brokenness**.
- [**T**] God was willing to be **broken** to fix my **brokenness**.

Three Ways We Will Respond To This:

Romans 1:19-20 3:23 6:23 & 10:9-13

We can choose to be:

- ❶ **Deaf** to the truth.
- ❷ **Mute** in responding to the truth.
- ❸ **Open** and accept the truth.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 16, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Kids tend to have a reputation for breaking stuff (Chris and his parent's ship) but unfortunately many adults can't be let off the hook either and leave a trail of destruction around the house. What's the most expensive thing you've broken and what did you do about it?

2. Chris mentioned we need to be open to change and yet many of us are resistant to it. Can you think of any reasons why people are resistant to change and how that impacts growth in their life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What a difference it makes to have hope. In fact, it is almost impossible to keep living without it. As followers of Jesus, we can always have hope, despite what we're going through. What powerful reminder does Matthew 28:1-7 give that can help us have hope this Easter?

Matthew 28:1-7 *New International Version (NIV)*

Jesus Has Risen

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

2. We all react differently to "broken" people, partly because we are all broken to some degree ourselves. Some of us want to seek out and help every broken person, while others avoid them like the plague. As you read through the following scenarios, jot down what your most natural response would be to that situation.

- A family member broke off their unhealthy relationship you'd warned them about years ago and now wants to talk with you about it.
- A friend who invests in risky stocks loses all his money.
- Someone in your Growth Group has an injury you've also had and is complaining about it.
- You know a mother who's had her children taken by Child Protective Services.

How could the verses below help someone who was struggling to help others in the scenarios given or any other areas of brokenness?

Matthew 7:1-2 *New International Version (NIV)*

Judging Others

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

1 Peter 4:8-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 6:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

Doing Good to All

¹ Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load.

Can you think of any personal brokenness that pops up occasionally or that keeps you from fully being able to help others?

3. As we saw this weekend, we have a God who wants to meet us in our suffering, similar to the way he met the deaf mute from this weekend's story. While it may not always be the type of healing we're praying for, we have a God who consistently wants to heal his people according to his plan. What sort of healing do you see in the following verses and what does that teach us about God's plan of healing in our lives?

James 5:13-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Psalms 107:17-22 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
¹⁸ They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.
¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.
²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
²² Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.

Revelation 21:1-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

A New Heaven and a New Earth

¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Can you think of any things (addictions, hurts, injuries, relationship issues, etc.) that God is healing in your life or in the life of someone you know?

TAKING IT HOME

Are there any areas of your life where you've been deaf to the truth or mute in responding to the truth that you'd like to change in the next few weeks?

Praise/Prayer Requests:



GET SIGNED UP NOW!

Weekend of Service is just two weeks away!

Over 7,000 have signed up!

We still need 5,000 more!

WEEKEND OF SERVICE



PLEASE CONSIDER THIS:

Signing up for two time slots or more!

Signing up for multiple projects!

To view our projects and sign up go to:

weekendofservice.com