

Cancel Culture Please Don't Drink The Kool-Aid!

Setting The Context:

The Text:

A Powerful Defense That Didn't Work Very Well

Acts 22:1-25

Cancel Culture:

Please Don't Drink The Kool-Aid! It Will Kill You.

- (1) Jesus came to cancel _____, not _____.
John 3:17 & 19:30/ 1 John 2:1-2/ Revelation 12:10 & Job 1-2

- (2) Jesus calls us to be _____, not _____ and _____.
2 Corinthians 5:20/ Matthew 28:19-20/ Matthew 7:1-5

- (3) Jesus died for His _____; all He asks is that we _____ our _____.
Romans 5:8-10 & Colossians 1:21-22/ Matthew 5:43-47 & Romans 12:17-18

- (4) Forgiveness is not an _____.
Matthew 18:21-35/ Matthew 6:12-15/ Luke 17:3-4/ Ephesians 4:32/ Colossians 3:12-13

- (5) It's bad enough when I won't forgive someone for what they did to _____.
It's ridiculous when I won't forgive someone for what I think they did to _____.
Proverbs 26:17/ Proverbs 29:7, Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3-4/ Romans 12:19

- (6) No one is too _____ to be _____.
There is no unforgivable sin (except this one).
Mark 3:28-29 & Matthew 12:22-32

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The Text:

A Powerful Defense That Didn't Work Very Well

Acts 22:1-25

Cancel Culture:

Please Don't Drink The Kool-Aid! It Will Kill You.

- (1) Jesus came to cancel **SIN**, not **PEOPLE**.
John 3:17 & 19:30/ 1 John 2:1-2/ Revelation 12:10 & Job 1-2

- (2) Jesus calls us to be **RECRUITERS**, not **PROSECUTORS** and **JUDGES**.
2 Corinthians 5:20/ Matthew 28:19-20/ Matthew 7:1-5

- (3) Jesus died for His **ENEMIES**; all He asks is that we **LOVE** our **ENEMIES**.
Romans 5:8-10 & Colossians 1:21-22/ Matthew 5:43-47 & Romans 12:17-18

- (4) Forgiveness is not an **EXTRA-CREDIT OPTION**.
Matthew 18:21-35/ Matthew 6:12-15/ Luke 17:3-4/ Ephesians 4:32/ Colossians 3:12-13

- (5) It's bad enough when I won't forgive someone for what they did to **ME**.
It's ridiculous when I won't forgive someone for what I think they did to **SOMEONE ELSE**.
Proverbs 26:17/ Proverbs 29:7, Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3-4/ Romans 12:19

- (6) No one is too **BROKEN** to be **REDEEMED**.
There is no unforgivable sin (except this one).
Mark 3:28-29 & Matthew 12:22-32

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of January 31, 2021

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

QUICK REVIEW

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

MY STORY

1. What creative ability would you most like to have that you don't already possess?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a book | <input type="checkbox"/> Draw/paint/sculpt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook/bake | <input type="checkbox"/> Invent/engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choreograph/perform dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Write songs/create music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create graphic design | <input type="checkbox"/> Write/direct/act in a screenplay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design/create clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

2. Larry talked about forgiveness not being an extra-credit option but something we are called to extend to all people. Can you think of a time in your life when you've been challenged to forgive someone you didn't want to forgive? What made forgiving them so hard?

3. We heard this weekend that no person is too broken to be redeemed. Can you think of a person you know whom you would be surprised to hear had become a Christian?

How might your attitude and actions toward them change if you were to more consistently think of yourself as an ambassador with a clear assignment rather than prosecutor or judge?

DIGGING DEEPER

The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-31 is arguably the most well-known and beloved parable Jesus told because of how well it reflects the heart of God. The parable also does such a great job of illustrating so many points from Larry's sermon that all of the study questions this week will focus on this story.

Before we jump into the questions, take a couple of minutes to read this entire passage and soak in what Jesus is telling us about God's heart. As you read, circle or highlight where you see any of the points from Larry's sermon reinforced in the story.

Luke 15:11-31 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ *“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

²² *“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

²⁵ *“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’*

²⁸ *“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

³¹ *“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’*

What can we learn about the heart of God from this story?

Can you think of a time in your life when you could relate to one or more of the three characters in the story – the younger son, the older brother or the father?

1. The major lesson of this parable is forgiveness – God’s forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others. The father in this story is a great picture of God’s love and forgiveness for each of us. Understanding His love and forgiveness for us can be of great help in motivating us to forgive and love others, including our enemies. What do you notice about the extent of God’s love and forgiveness from Psalm 103:8-13?

Psalm 103:8-13 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ *The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

⁹ *He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;*

¹⁰ *he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;*

¹² *as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

¹³ *As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him...*

What is most encouraging or comforting to you from these verses?

Why do you think people struggle with understanding and accepting God’s love for them?

Have you ever struggled with accepting that God loves you? If so, what has helped you better understand and accept His love for you?

2. As we heard this weekend, forgiving others is not an option for Christians. However, it's easy to get confused about what biblical forgiveness is. Forgiveness isn't pretending something never happened, immediately starting to trust again, immediately removing all the consequences or letting someone continue to hurt us over and over again. Forgiveness is about refusing to seek revenge, giving others what God gave us (grace and mercy) and not allowing ourselves to be consumed by the past. If you had a friend who was struggling to forgive someone, what might be some of the hurdles they would have to overcome to get to the point of being willing to forgive?

What encouragement might you offer to help them be able to forgive?

What are some signs that your friend may not have forgiven the other person even though they say they have? Can you think of any signs that would suggest they *have* forgiven the other person?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any past hurts or injustices that continue to be a challenge for you to extend forgiveness to someone? If so, how could the points from the sermon or study questions help you deal with that situation?

Take a few moments to pray this prayer based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son:

Heavenly Father, thank You that You love me unconditionally. Thank You for seeking me out when I go astray. There have been times when I have related to each character in this parable. I have been the prodigal – running as far and as fast from You as my legs will carry me. And yet You wait for me, with open arms. Father, I confess, I have been the eldest entitled son – feeling dejected by You despite my faithfulness. In these moments, help me see how much You love me for who I am so I will not be blind and miss out on Your celebration. Lord, help me strive to be more like the father, always responding in love and grace, no matter the cost. In Jesus' name, Amen

From Cortney Whiting at ibelieve.com

Additional Resources on Forgiveness

reengage.org/blog/what-is-forgiveness-re

crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/powerful-steps-toward-truly-forgiving-someone.html

hopeforthebrokenhearted.com/forgiveness



FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

North Coast Family Ministry offers families support, encouragement, prayer and hope that will help you make it through these challenging times. We have an amazing team of people who are here to walk with you as you navigate the ups and downs of work, life, school, marriage and more.

northcoastfamilysupport.com/