

Different

Week One - Different Faith in Trials

This week, we discussed the role of trials in developing and revealing our faith.

Scripture

1 Peter 1:1 | 1 Peter 1:6-9 | Luke 22:31-32 | James 1:2-4

Sermon Recap

1 Peter is a letter written by Peter to a group of “parepidēmois—exiles, sojourners, aliens, strangers, foreigners.” He tells them that the trials they are experiencing are proving their faith to be genuine. Genuine faith is in opposition to false faith. Here are some examples of false faith: Inherited Faith, Shallow Faith, Conditional Faith. God uses trials to 1) Reveal your faith and 2) Draw you closer to God.

Talk it Over

- 1) Ice-breaker: What is something “different” about you (something unique, a special skill, or a little known fact)?
- 2) Read 1 Peter 1:1. How can you identify as a foreigner, exile, stranger, or sojourner?
- 3) Why do you think God doesn’t miraculously keep you from experiencing any trials?
- 4) Think of a time when a trial revealed your faith. What kind of faith did it reveal: inherited faith, shallow faith, conditional faith, or genuine faith?
- 5) Have you experienced a trial that drew you closer to God?
- 6) What caused you to move closer to God instead of moving away from Him?
- 7) What trial are you facing right now? How can you begin to trust God with it?

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Week Two - Different Values in an Unholy Culture

This week, we defined holiness and discussed what it means to live a holy life .

Scripture

1 Peter 1:13-21

Sermon Recap

This world is not our home. For a lot of people the biggest difficulty in following Jesus is a desire to fit in. But, you weren't created to fit in. You were created to stand out. God made you to be set apart. Another difficulty in following Jesus for many is their desire to be happy. God's biggest goal for you is not your happiness. It is your holiness. When we believe that God wants us happy above all else, discomfort, delay, risk, and suffering can't be God's will. Without knowing it, we begin to worship the false gods of comfort, money, pleasure, and things. Holiness or "Hágios" means holy, set apart, different, pure. That is our goal and that is God's goal for us.

Talk it Over

- 1) What is something you did as a kid just to fit in?
- 2) Why do you think it's so easy to start looking like the world?
- 3) How would you describe the most important ways God asks us to be different?
- 4) Describe a time you put your "happiness" above God's call for you to be different? How did that turn out?
- 5) What are three areas you struggle the most trying to fit in?
- 6) What are the biggest ways you are different from the world right now?
- 7) What is one way you know God is asking you to be different right now in your life?

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Week Three - Different Calling in a Dark World

This week, we discussed the calling we all have as Christians.

Scripture

1 Peter 2:9,11-12 | 1 Peter 2:15 | 1 Peter 2:21-24 | 1 Peter 3:9

Sermon Recap

One of the words Peter uses over and over again is, calling. Calling empowers, emboldens, and encourages. It is what propelled Peter and he holds it out as something that should propel us forward. We have an eternal call to Christ, a temporary call to an assignment, and a daily call to a different standard of living. God calls you to a who before he calls you to a “do.”

Talk it Over

- 1) As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- 2) Who do you think of when you think about what it means to be a Christian? Why?
- 3) The “Who” Comes before the “Do.” Why do you think this is so important?
- 4) Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What message does your life send to people around you?
- 5) What can you do differently to lead more people to Christ?
- 6) Read 1 Peter 3:9. Who do you need to practice this principle with?

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Week Four - Different Perspective in Persecution

This week, we discussed the the reality of persecution and our response to it.

Scripture

1 Peter 4:12-13, 19 | 1 Peter 5:5-7 | John 15:18, 20

Sermon Recap

Don't be surprised if you face trials. If we are followers of Jesus, we WILL face trials. One of the reasons is because our enemy takes notice when we get in the game and start to fight. He fights back! Don't be surprised if you get shot at after you've entered the battle. However, most of us don't really want trials. We seek comfort and we want to avoid trials of any kind. But, then we get stuck in the Comfort Cycle: Pursue Comfort -> Avoid Opposition -> Faith Weakens->Life's Empty. So, the comfort we long for, we never experience. Instead, we need to pursue the Bold Cycle: Live Boldly->Face Opposition->Faith Strengthens->Closer to Christ.

Talk It Over

- 1) What are some silly things you've heard (or you've called) persecution?
- 2) "Don't worry when you are persecuted for your faith, worry when you are not." How does that make you feel? Explain.
- 3) Have you ever experienced any level of persecution for your faith? Share the story. Do you wish you did something differently?
- 4) Which looks more like your daily life: seeking comfort or living boldly?
- 5) What would change in your life if you expected persecution for your faith?
- 6) Read 1 Peter 5:5-7. What are you worried about right now? How can you practice Peter's instructions here?