

Sermon Notes

Lessons Learned: Part 2

June 12th-13th, 2021

- **This Week: It's Your Move.**
- As I look back over the years of spiritual highs and lows one thing is sure: when I aggressively sought after God, then He responded. When I just went through the motions of life God seemed absent.
 - o When I prayed, sought God at the altar or at a conference, or just talked with Him, God responded.
 - o Biblical theme: **Matthew 7:7-8, Hebrews 4:16, James 4:1-3, 2 Chronicles 7:14, etc.**
- This is a bit of a rule of thumb, which I think it is easy to understand.
 - o If God wants to knock Saul off his horse, or appear to Mary, or call to you in the Spirit when you are far away He sure can! God is sovereign and can do what He wants!! But that is more the exception.
 - o If you think you can just live your life without prayer, devotion, study, church/sabbath rest, times of seeking God AND have a vibrant relationship with God you are mistaken.
- Personal stories:
 - o **Matthew 7:7-8**, Promise Keepers, at a red light...
- My Fear: People assume God will chase them down.
 - o Popular Christianity depicts God in this way. It's romantic, but not exactly true. It's Your Move.
- Luke 15. Jesus tells three parables in response to something. **Luke 15:1-2**
 - o In these three parables, I see three types of people that you don't want to be. **Luke 15:3-31**
 - The three types of people you don't want to be: lost, prodigal, or grumpy religious.
- When I was lost I had three people reach out to me: a friend invited me to church in 7th grade, Orville witnessed to me on the streets of Chicago, and Tranette's dad.
 - o I did not initiate any of those interactions, but I did respond eventually by seeking for myself.
 - o Christians are the 'hands and feet' of Jesus. They seek after the lost sheep.
 - If you don't know Jesus, let me tell you....
 - If you are a Christian, you are part of the Global Redemption Revolution! Or...
- Perhaps you are a prodigal. You know the way, but you don't feel like following Jesus right now.
 - o The Father did not send anyone after his wayward son. Let that sink in for a minute.
 - Unlike the lost sheep/coin, the prodigal knew the way home.
 - When he "came to his senses" what was his realization? **Luke 15:17-18** It was his move!!!
 - If you are wandering but you know the way home, GO HOME TO JESUS!! It's your move!
 - Don't blame God and wait for Him to do something. It really is your move.
- Or maybe you are a grumpy religious person. You are there, but you have a bad attitude.
 - o That is who these parables were directed at! These grumpy religious people were complaining about the 'quality' of the people that Jesus allowed into the gathering.
 - o These grumpy religious types are still around. I get occasional complaints about the types of people I let into our services.
 - Good Hope Church policy: Anyone can attend, but not just anyone can have influence.
 - Bad attitude Christians are a pain. The only thing worse than being someone like that is having to deal with people like that!
 - Unfortunately, it is easy to get caught up in.
 - Let me share something I do to help my attitude...based on **Hebrews 12:1-3**.
 - If you need an attitude adjustment, It's your move. Give that a try.
- Let's wrap this up.
 - o The point is that you need to take responsibility to initiate your own spiritual growth and relationship with God. It's your move!!
 - Don't be tricked by pop-Christianity or various theologies into complacency and blame.
 - o Let's close with **Matthew 7:7-8**.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.