

Acts 4:1-21 - Losing Momentum

Icebreaker:

- Share a story of procrastination in your life.

Watch "Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus" Video

- What do you think of the video?
- Do you think Jesus Hates Religion? Why or Why not?

Read the Passage: Acts 4:1-21

- What do you think of this phrase, "God's redemptive Spirit was on the move in and among God's people, but sometimes God's people aren't easily moved."
- How did the Jewish leaders get in the way of God's redemptive Spirit?
- How do you see God's people getting in the way of God's redemptive Spirit today?

The Religious Spirit

Read

"That's the thing about the Religious Spirit. It comes disguised as something good, it's a twisting of what God intended for our benefit. Mark Buchanan calls it, "corruption masquerading as goodness." He says, "the Religious Spirit is a dangerous spirit because it's evasive and camouflaged. It shape-shifts. It's seditious, insidious, always posing as its opposite: keeper of virtue, upholder of purity, protector of doctrine, defender of truth. It's rigidity masking as piety. It's control pretending to be watchfulness. It's judgment posing as discernment." The religious spirit is corruption masquerading as goodness; legalism passed off as righteousness; moralism dressed up as holiness; obligation disguised as obedience."

The religious spirit is:

- 1) Controlling
 - 2) Insulating
 - 3) Comparing
- How do you see the religious spirit in church today? How is the church controlling, insulating, or comparing?
 - Talk about each of the three definitions of the religious spirit and how you've seen them in your own life. Which one do you struggle with most?