

Discussion Notes
The Good Life (Introduction)
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Introduction

- We begin a new study *The Good Life: What the Gospel does to our Everyday*.
- Since September we've been walking through Mark together. It's challenged us to think deeply about who Jesus is, what he shows us about God's character.
- What we're learning is that Jesus didn't come espousing a new philosophy, political policy, or even a moral code. Jesus didn't come to promote a new way of living.
- We're learning through Mark that Jesus didn't come to slightly modify or improve our lives, he came to give us life itself.
- Jesus is transformative. He tears everything apart, relays the foundation, and begins building our lives all over again, around himself.
- When we correctly identify and submit to Jesus, he re-creates our identities and establishes us in a new narrative.

The Good News Life

- If Jesus is re-making you and me and the world as we speak, what does that practically look like? If we are new creations, if we have new narratives and identities, what does life look like? How do we live?

- There may be some of us who have heard the word *Gospel* but little to no idea what it means.
- *Gospel* means *Good News*. So when Jesus' biographers tell us he came "*preaching the gospel*", they're saying that Jesus came announcing and championing good news. Jesus had good news for humanity.
- he says he's come to re-make us, to transform humanity.
- Humanity, according to Jesus, is not living but dying, and Jesus comes to give life, and to show us how to live. We can only know what real life is when we're re-connected and re-made by our maker.
- This is a common question in our culture, and in every culture: what is the meaning of life? A Christian worldview holds that life's meaning and purpose is to *know and enjoy God*.
- Human beings are many things, one of which is creative. We can produce. But we weren't primarily created to produce. We were principally created to relate. We are relational beings, and that's because we're made in God's image.
- If we're made in God's image, what does he look like? What's God's primary attribute or characteristic, what's at the core of God's identity? God is a Creator, he makes things, but what drives his making?
- What does John say God is? *Love!*
- Love is about relationship. So if we're made in God's image then we're designed as relational beings that find fulfillment and meaning in relationship with one another, but ultimate fulfillment

and meaning through knowing and enjoying the one who made us.

- The Good Life will ask: *How does this Good News transform everyday life?*

The Gospel goes everywhere

Colossians 1. 3-6

3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, 5 which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

- When Paul says the Gospel has gone everywhere, he means it.
- Jesus' and the Gospel moved and moved fast.
- The Good News goes to Colossae. Christians couldn't keep up!
- Jesus' example in Mark going *to* all kinds of people and places
 - Greek speaking people not just Israel.
 - Sick people, demonically possessed people.
 - Jesus goes out of his way.
 - His message, his work, his news is intentionally expansive.
 - Paul and Silas in Thessalonica (Acts 17)
- As he goes everywhere, things change. He's more than a comforter, he's a designer, engineer, creator, and if need be a re-creator.

- Notice the rest of verse 6. Not only has the Gospel gone everywhere, but it's doing things: *"bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives..."*

The Gospel gets into everything

Colossians 3. 17

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **13** Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. **17** And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- Consider the language: *rule in your hearts, clothe yourselves, fill your lives, whatever you do or say*. Language of infusion, of permeation.
- It was not just wide spreading, but deep settling.
- It transformed ethnic, social and economic relations. It re-shaped how husbands and wives related, how children were treated, how people worked and talked, and ate and spent their money.
- The gospel is like a toddler, it gets into everything.
- When we give ourselves to this Jesus he gets into everything.

The Good Life Topics

- Working – Doug
 - Eating – Ryan
 - Resting – Joanne
 - Listening – Mike
 - Talking – Reuben
 - Praying – Luke
 - Learning - Leanne
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- God's character is reflected in each of these topics.
 - He can also infuse daily life, practices like these, with his Spirit. What was mundane becomes invigorating. What was dull becomes animated.
 - What seems tiring and burdensome becomes a joy. What feels dead, can be re-made.

Discussion Questions

Where have you seen God's activity in your life recently that you may not have noticed in the past?

What areas of life do we tend to remove or cut God off from?

Why is it important to remember that Jesus came to give us a new life, and not just a better one?

How would you like to see God's Spirit infuse your life this summer? What would you like to see come alive, or gain new perspective on?