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WEEK 4 / @palexevans

BIG IDEA

Every one of us lives and interacts with people. It's a part of life. We work with people, we date or marry people, we befriend new people, and we maintain old friendships. Our relationships with people form a vital part of our lives here on earth. Have you ever heard the saying, "hurt people hurt people?" Yeah, it's true, one aspect of living with people is realizing that people are messy. People are broken. People are not perfect. We've all had a relationship with a friend, co-worker, or significant other where we threw our hands up and said, "It's too hard, they're not worth my time!!" YIKES! This week's sermon showed us that no one is "too far gone". Therefore we have to reflect on our capacity to hope the best for others. Meanwhile acknowledging God's transformative power and it's sufficiency for mending the most broken among us.

Titus 2:12-14 NLT

¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,¹³ while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. ¹⁴ He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

I Corinthians 3:18 ESV

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What area of your life do you find the most difficulty handle when people let you down? Maybe someone fails to meet your (perhaps unspoken) expectations. Is it at work, in your relationship, or with family?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-25 together.
In the parable of "The Unforgiving Debtor", a rich king forgives a massive debt to one of His servants. The servant then goes out to collect a rather insignificant debt from someone else, even becoming violent. In the story, the King represents Jesus, who forgave us all our sins, and we (often) imitate the forgiven debtor by dealing harshly with those around us who disappoint us. What lesson can we learn from this parable?
3. Read I Cor 3:18 & Titus 2:13
The people that you interact with here on earth are fully capable of reflecting the glory of Christ. How then should we view difficult people now? Knowing that EVERYONE is capable of glorious transformation?
4. Moses, when he finished talking to God, came down to the people and his face was radiant. Read Exodus 34:29-35 together. In it, we see that Moses wasn't initially aware that his face was shining. In the same way, we do not always observe the transformation that comes with being in close proximity to God. What are some manifestations of a transformed life?
5. Dealing with difficult people can be challenging. What is some advice you could give for your group-mates in regards to dealing with challenging individuals. (Whether boss, co-worker, family, friend or significant other).

#challengeoftheweek: Identify one person in your life where you can change your perspective and begin believing the best for them, holding hope that they can be transformed to reflect the glory of Christ.