

beautiful

LIVES THAT SHOW THE GOSPEL

Message Topic: Jesus and the Beauty of Good News

Message Date: September 20, 2020

Focus: The beauty of building God's kingdom here and now

Primary biblical texts: Luke 4:16–30; Ephesians 2:8–10

Introduction

Welcome! Thanks so much for being a part of a Community Group. For the next 8–10 weeks, our goal is to engage in conversations about the beautiful life that Jesus has enabled us and called us to live out to transform this world. Each week, we will be unpacking an element of this life, and discussing how it looks in light of an example that Christian will share. Each topic is paired with a historical figure who will show us one way to embody that week's topic. We are excited to dig into this series of messages with you!

Purpose of Groups

To engage with the ideas and scripture presented in the messages, to build connections with each other, and apply what we have learned to our lives.

Ground Rules

As you gather each week, remember that the group is meant to have conversations, not to win arguments. There may be topics that challenge our deeply held viewpoints and our natural inclination will be to protect ourselves. But, if we take a risk and attempt to listen and understand instead of dominate and defend, we will grow in our faith and in our beliefs.

Message Content

Review Message

Read Luke: 4. Christian suggested that in Luke 4 the deliverance Jesus brought was not just for the next world, but for this world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the real world social troubles that you wish Jesus would deliver us from now?
2. In other words, where do you see ugliness in the world today?
3. How have you seen Jesus deliver you or someone you know from troubles or ugliness?
4. Where are you seeing Jesus working in the world right now?
5. What else stood out to you from Christian's message?

Scripture Study

Read Ephesians 2:8–10 (NRSV). “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

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Paul describes each person as saved by grace by a gift of God who has “made” each person to do good works. The Greek word behind “made” is *poiema*, which describes the act of an artist creating a work of art, a beautiful carving, or a poem. In our case, humanity is God’s finest artistic creation — made with intention and beauty. Our beauty comes to full expression when we find our purpose and do the good work we were intended for. This is why God made us and saved us. We are co-workers with Jesus in transforming the world from ugly to beautiful.

Discussion Questions

1. How does it feel to hear that you are God’s handiwork/masterpiece made for good works?
2. Can someone’s handiwork be used for something other than what it was created for?
3. What made Jesus’ life beautiful? (Be specific.)

Personal Reflection

Think about your life and the situation you are currently in. What good work do you think God has prepared YOU for?

Challenge

Keeping in mind Jesus’ life as our example of beauty, what is one good work you can do this week to make the world a more beautiful place?

Prayer

God, help us to remember that you have made each one of us beautiful. Bring to mind the good work that you have for us to do today and this week. Give us the power and opportunities to live our lives beautifully in the way we live in the world.