

WEEK 12:

JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN COMMUNITY: AM I IN IT?

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 6:43-49

RELATED SCRIPTURE:

Ezekiel 36:25-27, Matthew 13:1-23,
John 14:15 and 23-24, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21,
Ephesians 2:1-10, Hebrews 10:19-39, Revelation 21:1-8

“Advent creates people, new people.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger:
Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

“Christian holiness consists not of trying as hard as we can to be good but of learning to live in the new world created by Easter, the new world we publicly entered in our baptism. There are many parts of the world we can't do anything about except pray. But there is one part of the world, one part of physical reality, that we can do something about, and that is the creature each of us call 'myself.'”

- N.T. Wright

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 6:43-45 and 2 Corinthians 13:5. Where in your life have you seen Jesus give you a new heart, new mind, and new actions/behaviors? Does the pattern of fruit in your life indicate that you've been given a new heart by Jesus?

Read Matthew 23:25-28. Where in your life do you struggle with the religious game of cleaning up your external actions and ignoring the internal condition of your heart? Why is this tempting?

Luke 6:45 says that an evil heart produces evil and that evil words are the abundance of an evil heart. Where is your heart of flesh revealing itself through your actions and your words? What do you need to be consistently confessing and repenting from?

Read Luke 6:46-49. People build their foundation for relationship with God on all kinds of things (good works, good morals, a family affiliation, church attendance, an emotional decision, etc.). What does Jesus say will expose what our real foundation is? How does Jesus' grace give a solid foundation in the midst of pain?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What are the good works that Jesus has created you for? How fully are you walking in and serving people with what God has given you?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Do you ever struggle with doubt about whether or not you are a really a Christian? If so, what causes these doubts? If not, why not?



Read Luke 6:43-45, 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Hebrews 10:19-23. What does it look like to examine our faith while at the same time having an assurance of faith because of what Jesus has done for us?

In light of Luke 6:45, how is Jesus pressing us deeper than a religious “don’t use bad language” rule? What types of sinful conditions in your heart are exposed by your mouth?



Read Luke 6:46. Jesus questions the hypocrisy of calling Him Lord and failing to do what He commands. What sins of inaction and omission are currently present in your life?

Read Ephesians 2:9-10 and Hebrews 10:24-25. How can we encourage each other towards serving in ways Jesus has wired us? What fears or hesitations or selfishness hinder you? How can we help press you to grow?



Read Luke 6:47-49. When seasons of pain and suffering have come in your life, have you been able to stand or have you tended to fold spiritually? Why does hardship expose areas of hypocrisy and/or unbelief in our lives?