

1.22.12

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Mike McClellan

The purpose of Walking Dusty is to make us think more about what was taught on Sunday morning. It is not a replacement for hearing the message or studying God's Word. Please check out the podcast to hear Mike's teaching. It was an amazing science lesson and Bible application wrapped into one.

Mike said, "God's chosen are expected to attempt something so big that it's guaranteed to fail unless He steps in." It's easy to take on projects when we know we can be successful, but this quote is saying we need to take on something we cannot do alone. Doing something big doesn't mean being Billy Graham or Mother Teresa. For one couple it means serving the homeless. For another it means being broken for the people in their city. I believe both these couples would say that what they took on was more than they could handle. They needed God to step in and accomplish what only He can do. For me, I was a very prideful parent before I adopted two little boys. I thought I could turn most kids around because I had good parenting skills and a lot of experience with children. But adoption has caused me to seek God more than I ever have. I have realized I don't have any answers – not one single one on my own. It has caused me to question my own abilities and rely more on God's wisdom. Now when I see a change in my children's behavior, I know it is God working. It is not me.

But some of us are burdened thinking God can't use us. We think we can never be good enough or wonder how our mistakes can bring Him glory. At one time I thought this, too. But Romans 8:38-39 says "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Some of us need to hear – we need to deeply understand – we need to be convinced – that there is nothing we can do to separate us from God. No sin is too great. No past is too broken. No pain is too deep. God can use it all to bring healing and help to others. And when we step aside, He gets the glory. Jesus wants us to see our weakness so He can show us His Father's strength. Will we let Him?

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Do I love God enough to let Him work in His way? Am I willing and able to step back and let God get the glory?

Mike shared what he had learned about the star named Sirius and then compared it to our lives as Christ-followers. You could tell he had been "wowed!" by God and His creation. Have I ever been wowed by God? Was I able to draw truth from it?

Mike said we often have a furious level of planning and activity, but nothing gets done without Christ. Am I in the midst of planning something but haven't involved God?

The more time I spend reading and studying God's Word will result in being more like Jesus. How much time do I spend on my relationship with Him?

On p. 45 of *Radical* is the definition of the American dream. This definition relies on our ability, not God's power. How am I challenged with the American dream? In what area do I struggle the most? Do I believe my greatest asset is my own ability?

A mosaic is made of broken pieces of clay or glass, but when the pieces are put together the result is beautiful. How is God making a mosaic within our community of Lenawee County? How am I a part?

"The question for us, then, is whether we trust in His power. And the problem for us is that in our culture we are tempted at every turn to trust in our own power instead. So the challenge for us is to live in such a way that we are radically dependent on and desperate for the power that only God can provide." (*Radical*, p. 45) On what am I dependent? For what am I desperate?

"The reality is that the church I lead can accomplish more during the next month in the power of God's Spirit than we can in the next hundred years apart from his provision. His power is so superior to ours. Why do we not desperately seek it?" (*Radical*, p. 54)

"What if God in all his might is simply waiting to show his power in a people who turn their backs on a philosophy of life that exalts their supposed ability to do anything they want and who instead confess their desperate need for him? What if God in all his grace is radically committed to showing himself strong on behalf of a people who express their need for him so their lives might make much of him?" (*Radical*, p. 54)

I really liked the section in the book about God giving the Holy Spirit to us. (Example: He gives us the Comforter, instead of comfort.) Why is this important? What does it mean to me? (*Radical*, p. 57-58)

"Instead of asserting ourselves, we crucify ourselves. Instead of imagining all the things we can accomplish, we ask God to do what only he can accomplish. Yes, we work, we plan, we organize, and we create, but we do it all while we fast, while we pray, and while we constantly confess our need for the provision of God. Instead of dependence on ourselves, we express radical desperation for the power of his Spirit, and we trust that Jesus stands ready to give us everything we ask for so that he might make much of our Father in the world." (*Radical*, p. 60) Are we bold enough to ask?

This month's memory verse: "Anyone, then, who knows the good they ought to do and does not do it, sins." James 4:17

Additional verses: Jeremiah 1:4-9, John 14:12-14, Acts 4:13-18, 1 Samuel 14:6-14, Joshua 6, Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 3:1-4, Romans 8:38-39

Reminders:

1.29 –The Gathering at 10am & FAMILY FUN DAY!!! "R A D I C A L -chapter 4"

The great 'why' of God...God's global purpose from the beginning till today.

***Family Fun Day & BAPTISM – will take place at the Centre (CFC) from 3-5! All are welcome and this event is completely FREE. Both the pool & gym will be open for us to enjoy, so please bring whatever you need to enjoy them! We look forward to seeing you all there.**