

4.15.12

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

Sometimes when I write "Walking Dusty" I know right away what to write about. This time I wasn't sure, but it seemed as though every time I listened to KLove, Tenth Avenue North's song "You Are More" came on. Some of the lyrics say,

"There's a girl in the corner with tear stains on her eyes
From the places she's wandered and the shame she can't hide
She says, "How did I get here? I'm not who I once was.
And I'm crippled by the fear that I've fallen too far to love"

But don't you know who you are, what's been done for you? Yeah don't you know who you are?
You are more than the choices that you've made, you are more than the sum of your past mistakes,
You are more than the problems you create, you've been remade.

'Cause this is not about what you've done, but what's been done for you.
This is not about where you've been, but where your brokenness brings you to.
This is not about what you feel, but what He felt to forgive you, and what He felt to make you loved. "

I thought back to Dan's teaching. He shared how God used John the Baptist, even though he was considered absurd and unqualified. He explained that this eliminates our excuse to be used. "God has put a calling on each of our lives. Do you believe, accept, and live it?" challenged Dan. I think that one of Satan's biggest (and perhaps easiest) lies is to make us think we aren't good enough for God to use. But over and over again I have seen God take our brokenness and turn it into His strength. God uses a single mom to teach her children about His provision and compassion. He uses a college student to show others how much they are loved. He uses a former addict to minister to the needs of those struggling with their addictions. And He uses an unemployed father to serve those in need at the Salvation Army. Just like in the song, it's not about where we've been or what we feel. It's about Jesus and what He's done for us.

When you look at our society, don't you have to ask "why?" Why does God love us, even when we're unlovable? Why does He take the uneducated, the poor, and the weak, when the world seems to throw them away? It's because He wants to reach all of us: the lawbreakers and law keepers, the Pharisees and the Gentiles, men and women, you and me. If that doesn't amaze you, I don't know what will. All our qualifications and accomplishments amount to nothing; it's our heart that He earnestly wants. Humbling, isn't it?

Check out Tenth Avenue North's video of "You Are More:"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwtcwQwgdsA>

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) Knowing how much God loves me requires a response. Will I answer God’s call?

Dan said that the book of Mark is written more about what Christ did than what He said. If a book were written about me, what would I want it to say? What would others write?

St. Francis of Assisi said “Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” Do my words and life match?

When I serve, is it for Jesus? Or is it for me?

Considering Mark 1:7, do I have humility before Jesus?

This month’s memory verse: “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written; The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.’” Luke 24:45

Additional Verses: Mark 1, Acts 12:25, 1 Peter 5:13, Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3

Reminders:

4.22 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “The MARK’s of Christ” & ‘4 the City!’

What does the Gospel of Mark remind us about Communion? Join us for an extended time of worship, reflection & celebration. 4 the City event to follow!

4.29 –The Gathering at SHU at 10am... “Family Fun Morning -Mosaic’s got Talent“

Join us as we come gather this week to simply celebrate life through laughter & community together! This will be an hour long family experience that you will not want to miss. Then lunch together @ Island Park!

Radical Reminder:

I will pray for the entire world.

I will read through the entire Word.

I will sacrifice my money for a specific purpose.

I will spend time in another context.

I will commit my life to a multiplying community.

How am I doing in each of these areas?