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Walking Dusty

Teacher: Steven Palmer

The Gospel paints a picture of a God who could have “stayed in his bubble,” but instead chooses to go on a rescue mission. A God who rolls up his sleeves and goes to work. It makes sense if you think about it! God could have rightfully given up on us because we rebelled against him. He would have had every right to say to mankind, “You blew it. You’re too sinful for me. I’m done with you. I don’t want to get my hands dirty; it’s pretty comfortable here in my bubble of holiness.” *But that’s not the heart of God. He does the exact opposite!* He says, “I think I’ll join you down there, put myself through everything you go through, and lay down my life for you.” In Jesus, who is “the exact representation of his (God’s) being (Hebrews 1:3)” and the “lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8),” we see that God is a pursuer and we see that *holiness without love isn’t holiness and love without holiness isn’t love.*

As Pastor Steven from Neighbors of Hope mentioned, when we look at Jesus’ earthly life, we see one who preached good news to the poor and hope to the brokenhearted. “The Kingdom of God is here”- a full scale assault on the system of this world. A kingdom grounded in compassion, mercy, and justice, where injustice does not exist. This was great news to those who didn’t love this world’s ways, but threatening news to those who did!

Throughout the New Testament, we see a common theme- love for God and impartial love for our brother; the spiritual and the physical; the future and the present- go hand in hand. The Gospel is Christ leaving his bubble for us and empowering us to leave our bubble for our brothers. If we find ourselves feeling privileged, looking down on others, or being cliquy, then it’s a red flag that we need to check our spiritual pulse and ask our Father to grow our love for him and willingness to leave our bubbles.

Things to Consider

- God, do I see your character properly? Can you help me to understand who you really are?
- “For where you treasure is, there your heart will be” –Jesus. Father, grow our affection for you and guard our hearts. Lead us out of any bubbles we’re afraid to leave and help us to truly treasure following you.
- Remember when Pastor Steve asked those recovering from heroin addiction to stand up? This is a picture of the Gospel → Jesus is making us whole