

11.13.11

## Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

As a parent, I often tell my kids what to do; but what's really nice is when they do something without me asking them – like unloading the dishwasher or taking care of their laundry. Sometimes their motivation is to look better than their sibling, but often they do it because they love me. It feels very different when they do something out of love, instead of obligation. Dan read Hosea 6:4-7 from The Message and these verses really stood out to me: "I'm after love that lasts, not more religion. I want you to know God, not go to more prayer meetings." Life would be easier if we had an agenda and checklist to follow or if there was a twelve-step program to become pious. But God wants more – He wants our heart. He wants us to follow Him out of love.

I wonder if we fully grasp the idea of a love relationship with God. I wrestle with understanding the depth of it. I am humbled by His grace in my life, and I regret when I haven't shown it to others. I'm in awe when He answers prayers, and amazed when I realize He was already working before I even asked. The world shows love through sex, money, and feelings, but I think dc Talk said it best: "Love is a verb." God is continually working to show how much He loves us. He constantly forgives and is always showering us with gifts of mercy and grace. He provides for our needs, and works to bring about situations to make us more like Jesus.

Sometimes I think we make it difficult for others to see God. We give people the impression that they have to clean up, sober up, dress up, make up, and shape up before God will accept them. But that's not true! When I was at my worst, God accepted me. When I told myself I could never be forgiven, He showed me dozens of verses that said otherwise. When I was unbelieving He helped my unbelief, and He's still working to root out more of the "yuck" in me.

It's really a simple message: God loves us and He wants a relationship with us! The song "Come Home" by Luminare has a few lines that always choke me up: "It's never too late, you can't outrun grace. No, mercy doesn't care what you've done. So come home . . . There's power in the blood of Jesus, and your Father's screaming just come home! He's reaching out His hands." Is this the message the world sees and hears from us? I hope so.

### 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) Can I accept God's love so that I can live out the life He has planned for me and lead others to Jesus?

As a Christian . . . What am I called to do? What am I called to look like?

What's my motivation to do the right thing . . . to please God or to make myself look better?

What do the words “I love you” mean to me?

1Mosaic’s mission statement is “zero.” In what area of my relationships, community, and world do I have a passion to see the number zero?

What areas of my life are difficult right now? What can I thank God for in the midst of the difficulty? In what areas of my life am I ready to give up? Have I asked for help?

Do I attend “more prayer meetings,” or am I seeking to deepen my relationship with Christ through serving? (see Hosea 6:4-7)

What is my cost to following Jesus? (see Luke 9:57-62)

What does it mean to be “on mission” with 1Mosaic? Do I want to be “on mission” with 1Mosaic?

Dan described a Rhetorical Gap as the gap between what we say (our rhetoric) and where we really are. Do I admit there’s a gap between my words and actions? In what areas do I need to seek God for help? Is my gap shrinking? What am I doing to shrink my rhetorical gap?

Regarding National Adoption Month . . . what are you called to do? (Pray, take a meal, provide respite, speak encouragement to an adoptive family, ???) Did you know there are more churches in the U.S. than there are children in the U.S. waiting to be adopted? Then why are there still children waiting to be adopted?!? <http://www.icareaboutorphans.org/WaitingKidsinYourState.aspx>

***This month’s memory verse:*** “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward everyone according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.” (Jer 17:10 TNIV)

***Additional verses:*** Hosea 6:4-7, James 4:17, Luke 9:57-62, Matthew 28:19

#### **REMINDERS:**

11.20 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!! “Your Heart”

This week Scott VanEtten will be launching us into God’s Word, asking the question, “how do we get our heart to look more like the heart of Jesus?”

11.27 –The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!!! “The 18” Disconnect”

So often as Christ followers we have a major disconnect between our head and our heart. Join us as Dan unpacks the process of reuniting the two with Jesus being the conduit of connection!

\*\*This will also be our first “4 the City” event...stay tuned for more details!\*\*