

9.25.11

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

When Dan challenged, “Do we honor Christ or humiliate Christ,” I have to admit that it was hard to swallow. I quickly thought of several ways that I have humiliated Jesus just in the last few days alone. When I’m inconvenienced or irritated, I take it out on others, especially my family. I kept thinking of all the ways I’ve let Him down. I often get stuck in this backward thinking of regret, and I stew over the stuff I should’ve done. But then God gave me a different perspective, one that looks forward. He reminded me that He loves me enough to continue to place me in situations that will help me become more like Jesus. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve wondered why God hasn’t given up on me; over and over His patience amazes me. And beyond His mercy, He blesses me when I don’t deserve it. And through that, I will be able to find passion in more areas of my life. Dan paraphrased Colossians 3:23 this way: Passionate Purpose is an enthusiastic desire to honor Christ in all we do! And he used a quote from John Piper to help us apply it: “You don’t waste your life by where you work, but by how and why you work.”

You see, so many times I get stuck feeling sorry for myself and the things I’ve done, and that serves no purpose. God doesn’t focus on what we were or what we’ve done. Once we’ve turned to Him and accepted our need of a Savior, He sees us as “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1Peter 2:9-10)

In the last hour, I’ve humiliated Christ and I’ve asked forgiveness. But as I move forward I want to focus on Psalm 19:14: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”

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) Am I willing to share this love with others? Do they know I’m a Christ follower?

Am I living with passionate purpose?

Who am I working for?

Is there an area of my life that I’m wasting? Have I confessed this to God?

How can I be in the world, but not of the world?

1 Peter 2:10 talks about receiving mercy from God. Have I stopped and thought about what God has done for me? Do I recognize that mercy is an amazing gift?

Do I want to please God with my outward actions, as well as my inner-most thoughts?

This month's memory verse: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Col 3:23-24 TNIV)*

Additional verses: *1 Corinthians 11:23-28, John 17:13-19, 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 (or all of 1 Peter); Psalm 19:14*

Reminders:

10.2 – **The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm!** MOSAIC FAMILY. We will be launching into our action packed month of October and our new series talking about family! You will not want to miss any part of this, so join us Sunday to hear the plan for the month!