

Living & Loving in a Messy World - Week 1

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-12

Also: Genesis 3; James 1:2-8; the book of Proverbs

Discussion Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. The Bible points towards one event as the beginning point of messiness in human lives (Genesis 3).
 - What are some lessons we can pick up from that story?
 - Since that event, "messy" is just a part of our existence. We acknowledge that with our minds, so why do we often seem surprised when messiness shows up in our lives?
 - Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent. In what settings are you more likely to blame someone outside yourself for whatever "messy" is happening?
 - How important is it to discover the source of the messy (from ourselves, from others, could be something on the range from accidental to outright sin/evil, etc)?
 - How do you do that discernment?
 - What are the steps you take once you know? (For example, if it's from self, you might need to apologize or repent. If it's from others, you might need to forgive. If it's from no one in particular, or you can't change it, you might need to accept it. It may be a complex blend of several things including the above, plus challenge, accountability, sacrificial love, Etc.)
3. Read James 1:2-8.
 - How does this passage tell us to handle hard times (trials/messiness)?
 - This passage may be aimed more at external trials. What can you draw from this passage about how to view internal trials/messiness?
4. The book of Proverbs is all about gaining wisdom, and about applying that wisdom to our lives. Is there a specific Proverb (or Proverbs) that have helped you?
5. Can you think of other Scriptures that address the messiness of life here on earth?

Praise God; He provided a way for us to be set free from the bondage to our messiness!