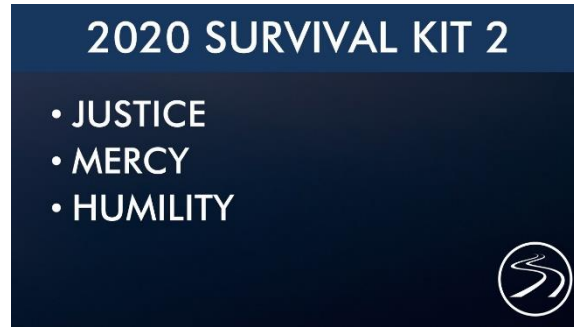


June 14, 2020 BCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



Questions:

1. Have you ever had a bad relationship with someone turn around and become a good relationship? If so, how did that happen?
2. What do you remember about the sermon? (see the outline above). What especially spoke to you? Do you have any questions to ask?
3. How can justice, mercy, and humility help during a time like this?
4. Read Matthew 5:21-24
 - a) In what ways are murder and anger related to each other?
 - b) Do Christians need to be afraid of going to hell if they make a mistake and let anger get the best of them? (see Ephesians 2:8-9, James 2:14, James 2:17, 2 Corinthians 13:5, and 1 John 4:17-18)
 - c) According to this passage, how important is reconciliation to God?
 - d) In this example that Jesus gives, one person is trying to give an offering to God and another person has a grievance against him. Who in this scenario do you think will benefit most from reconciliation?
 - e) What if someone has something against you, but you feel that you've done nothing wrong? What might reconciliation look like in such a case? (see Hebrews 12:14, 1 Corinthians 13:6, and Ephesians 4:15)
 - f) Do you think any of this can apply to what is currently happening in our society? Why or why not?
5. Read Daniel 9:1-8
 - a) The Bible portrays Daniel as a godly man. In fact, an angel honored him as "highly esteemed" (Daniel 10:11). Why, then, do you think Daniel makes confessions to God by saying "we have sinned and done wrong"? Why does he confess certain sins that he himself was not guilty of? (note: this kind of prayer has been referred to as "identificational repentance")
 - b) There are other examples of this type of prayer, but they mainly occur in the Old Testament, before Christ took sin upon himself on the cross. Do you think it would be legitimate to pray today, "God, we Americans have sinned and done wrong" while confessing sins like slavery, racism, looting, etc.? Why or why not? (Christians' perspectives on this will probably vary)
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
 - a) What is the most important kind of reconciliation that people need?
 - b) What role do we play in the "ministry of reconciliation"?
7. Pause and pray that God would give you a greater heart for justice, mercy, and humility. Also pray for reconciliation in our world and a spiritual revival.
8. Now take prayer requests in your group and pray for any specific needs.