

Growth Group Questions

7th Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 7, 2024

Introduction

When you hear the series title *Meaningful Ministry* what people, responsibilities, blessings and challenges come to mind?

Into the Word – Ezekiel 2:1-7

1. How are Ezekiel's, a pastor's, and every Christian's calls the same? How are they different? (*It might help to think of similarities in functions and difference in scope.*)
2. What does God tell Ezekiel his ministry will be like? Share a story or two (without names!) of times when Christians today proved to be obstinate and stubborn. (Don't take all night on this question. 😊)
3. With this section in mind, how do you judge a pastor's ministry, bearing in mind the qualities God calls for in 1 Tim. 3 as well?

Into the Word – 2 Timothy 2:1-13

4. Timothy was a young pastor who Paul saw as a spiritual "son." What do you think Paul is trying to teach in the first paragraph as he compares ministry to being a soldier, and athlete, and a farmer?
5. Note the unselfish reason Paul gives in verse 10 for enduring suffering. Not to gain something for himself but to gain something for others. How does this quality become apparent to others in a person's ministry?

6. Paul was in chains for preaching about Jesus. But verse nine famously says, "**God's word is not chained.**" What did Paul mean and why is that so important?

Into the Word – Mark 6:1-6

7. Why were the people so amazed at Jesus' teaching? Let the rest of the text help you figure out why they were surprised.
8. Different churches have different goals for deciding their worship style. Note here that Jesus was "teaching" in the synagogue. Our services generally would fall in the same category. Why would we generally say it is more important to "teach the heart" than "touch the heart" in worship?
9. At the same time, while we recognize the importance of truth over emotion, why would it also be an abuse of worship to make it a dry and repetitive recitation of Bible facts?
10. Verse six is a great example of Jesus turning something negative into a positive. What did he sadly find to be true about his hometown? But what did he do instead?
11. Can you think of examples when in your own lives or ministries, you had to change course just as Jesus did? Can you recall a time when a change in plans led ministry to turn out better than your original idea?

Closing Prayer

Savior Jesus, thank you for calling me into your most blessed ministry. Give me opportunities to speak and to serve, and use me to spread your kingdom to more and more souls. Amen.