



Two Faces to Focus On | Doug Wekenman | 4.3.22
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! Welcome back! This week Doug challenged us to magnify the Person we need to focus on when the troubles of this life weigh heavy on us. Jesus is both the lamb and the lion: suffering yet victorious. When we know this truth, we can know both a God who emphasizes and walks with us in our pain, and a God who has already overcome that same pain. We can be rest assured that our future is secure in Him no matter the no matter the outcome of this life and know peace through it all because of the Prince of Peace.

But before we dive in, take a few minutes to check in with your Group:

Where did you experience God's goodness in your life this week?

GROW

Read John 8:8-31

Unpack this story with your group from the perspective of the crowd (the critics), the woman (the adulterer) and Jesus (King of Kings, the unblemished lamb).

There are two different voices here, the ones from critics and the one from Christ. The voice of critics condemn, criticize, destroy, mock, and humiliate. They use any means available to exploit weakness and vulnerability. Contrary to this, the voice of Jesus confronts our sin with love, compassion, forgiveness, redemption, and provides a better way to live. The enemy is our biggest critic and he wants nothing more to condemn, kill and destroy us. But as it is said in John 10:10, Jesus wants nothing more than to bring us life, and life to the fullest.

To which voice are you listening to? To which voice are you speaking out?

The compassion from Jesus was not just a one-time pass that enabled her to continue her previous lifestyle. It was not a get out of jail free card, so she could continue living in her sinful patterns. The compassion of Jesus gave her a new life. Doug said it so well this weekend, “it was the suffering lamb who knelt down to meet and comfort this woman where she was at. And when the angry mob was about to stone her, it was the conquering lion who stood up to fight for her.” She was not the lowest ranking members of society anymore. She was no longer living by the critics standard who make irrational rules about a person’s worth. She was a child of God, a daughter of the King, freed from the bondage of sin and society’s ranking system to walk in the light of Jesus Christ.

What does “walking in the light of Jesus” mean? Who in your life “walks in this light”?

Where in your life have you experienced Jesus like this woman did here in this story?

Share with your group.

M O V E

Read Revelation 5:5-8

As Doug mentioned in his sermon, we have two faces of Jesus to focus on: the lion and the lamb. Many times, in the Bible we see this language or imagery referring to the nature of Jesus. As a lion, Jesus shows up in our life with all power and authority and reminds us that he conquered the world and everything in it so that we don’t have to be afraid. In verse 6 we read of Jesus standing as if slain. As the lamb, Jesus laid down his life and sacrificed for us all. Jesus came to earth to die, born in human form to die for our sins. “...he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth (Isaiah

53:7) As blameless as Jesus was as he lived on this earth, he humbled himself through his ministry and laid down his life for us.

Which side of God do you tend to focus on more: the lamb or the lion? How would your life change or look different if you knew God as both the lamb and lion?

Remember what Doug said, "Fear is real, so we need to make sure we assign it to the right thing. Fear and revere God! We don't need to fear death, fear the lion who has conquered death. "Don't fear the future, revere the lion who is in your future! And like the Pacific Ocean or the Rocky Mountains, stand in front of the lion of Judah with that tinge of fear that something this powerful and majestic and mighty and awesome not only exists, and not only fights for you but loves and knows you intimately. Jesus is the conquering lion. And he's not safe. But he's King, and he's good. He is the lamb, and he is the lion, and he wants to know you as both."

How does knowing that you have the God of the universe fighting for you, loving you, who knows you intimately, change the way you view and live out your everyday life? How have you seen God fight for you? Fight for your family? Friends?

There are going to be really good days and really bad days and we cannot control much of it. But we must remember who holds all things together and focus on that. Remember what Doug repeated throughout his message, "what you focus on you magnify, and what you magnify you will make more of!" That's true about Jesus and addiction. That's true of Jesus and divorce. That's true about faith and anxiety. That's true about Jesus and depression. That's why we meet in group, gather at church to focus again on Jesus! This is where we need each other to help us refocus back onto Jesus!

What in your life needs to have a change of focus back to Jesus and made more of in your life? Who do you have in your life helping you put your focus back on Jesus?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

TO GO

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33