



This is Not A TED Talk | Doug Wekenman | 7.31.22
Weekly Study

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Welcome back to Group! This week Doug shared a powerful message pointing us back to the person of Jesus. He taught us that the Bible is not first and foremost a collection of life-tips and principles or a TED talk, it's the story of the loving God that each of us are invited into.

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

What is one thing that you have struggled seeing God in lately?

Where have you experienced God this week?

GROW

Read Luke 10:25-37

As we read, The lawyer in our story finds himself faced with an impossible situation. Because he asks Jesus, how do I inherit eternal life? How do I get to heaven? Jesus then responds by telling him the story about the Samaritan who showed up for the one who was barely alive while other passed by. When we read the Bible, it is super important to remember the context in which it is written. In this culture, Jews and Samaritans hated each other, it was racism at its absolute worst. Samaritans were treated as less than by the Jews, and because Jesus and those he was sharing this story with are all Jewish, the lawyer's must have been assuming what was coming... the Samaritan will most likely kick him while he's down but Jesus says, "actually, the Samaritan shows compassion, and bandages this guy's wounds, and takes him

to an inn, and pays for him to stay there for three days, and says, if it ends up costing more, I'll take care of it when I come back." Jesus then asks, "so which of these is your neighbor?" Looking back at the beginning of this conversation between them, this man asked, "how do I go to heaven forever?" Jesus follows up with a statement that radically shifts the whole conversation, "So, just go and do likewise." Go and do what the Samaritan did all the time and eternal life is yours. Perfectly love not only your friends, your neighbors, the cashier at the store but also "the boss who treats you poorly, the church that hurt you, the person who wronged you, the parent who failed you and the group that disagrees with you."

How do we "perfectly love?" Is this impossible to do this on our own? What do you think Jesus meant by this?

After reading this story, how do you see the person of Jesus differently? Where's Jesus in the Good Samaritan story?

Read Luke 10:38-42

Luke, now takes us from the good Samaritan to Mary and Martha's living room. Mary is the younger sister sitting on the floor in front of Jesus and Martha is in the kitchen doing what a classic older sibling would do when God comes to your house for dinner, she's cooking, she's serving! And she finally gets so annoyed and frustrated that she runs into the living room, her and she says, Jesus, can you please tell my little sister to help me! She's doing nothing! Doug translated it this way, "Jesus, can you please tell Mary to be more like the Good Samaritan?" But Jesus responded the opposite. He says, "it's Mary who has chosen the good portion and the one thing necessary in all the human existence."

Talking simply on birth order, can you relate to Martha, the older sibling? Or Mary?

What is the heart posture of Mary? What is the heart posture of Martha? Which heart posture do you tend to find yourself with? Do you think one is better than the other? Explain.

M O V E

Recap (Luke 10:25-42)

Doug shared that Judah Smith taught him so much about seeing Jesus in scripture and makes the point that you'll never hear these two stories preached in the same sermon. Because even though they're back to back stories in the bible, they're so conflicting and contradicting. Mary and Martha and resting and just being with Jesus. And then the Good Samaritan about going and doing and loving all people well. So go and do while being and resting?

Doug quotes Judah and says "If trying harder to be the Good Samaritan was the remedy for a broken world, it would have worked by now. It would have worked centuries ago." So, what are we not seeing? We can go back to the question Doug asked us this week, how are we reading our Bible? Does the confusion come when we just read scripture looking for principles and not a person of Jesus? In other words, are you just reading yourself into the story as The Good Samaritan or Mary/Martha and looking for a takeaway?

What would it look like to look for Jesus in ALL scripture instead of a nugget takeaway for ourselves?

Doug stated that "trying to relate to God and the Bible based on principles and performance rather than through a person, turns a relationship that says I get to into a religion that says I have to." And therefore, people fall away from their faith.

Have ever been at a place in your life that you have found yourself trying religion but had not experienced Jesus?

When we open up scripture looking for Jesus in all of it we will experience God in a way that has always been intended, alive and active. God's love is woven throughout the Story, and we are invited to be part of it. Let us not miss him, it will change everything.

This week, commit to reading your Bible daily and each time ask God to reveal himself to you and take note of how he shows up.

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.

