

Community Group Discussion Questions

“EM Vision, Part Two”

Romans 1:16-17

Sermon Series Title: “EM Vision”

Sermon Series Summary: To start off 2023, we are going to look at our vision and remember the foundation and goal for everything we do.

Summary: In our passage, we see two stories of miraculous healings of Jesus. But they are intertwined in different ways to show us the depth, the beauty, and the wisdom of the love of God. This shows us that Christ’s love and healing cross age, social, religious, and gender lines, ultimately fulfilled in the cross. The question is are we humble enough to go to Him and to receive Him as our Savior and Lord?

Sermon Points:

1. Gospel Truth
2. Gospel Life
3. Gospel Hope

Main Idea: *“May we live in the richness of the gospel.”*

Opening Question

1. What is the gospel? How would you describe it to a ten YO child?

(The gospel literally means the good news. It is an event that has happened that is good news for everyone that is affected. What is the event? It’s that God has come in Jesus Christ. He lived the perfect, righteous life we failed to live. He died the death that was our punishment for sin and was buried. He was raised back to life in ultimate victory over sin, Satan, and death.

This is the best news for us. We are not counted as sinners but as righteous. We are brought into the family of God. We have our relationship with God restored. We have new hearts and new life in Christ, which will last for eternity. We have the hope of glory in the ultimate resurrection from the dead with the new heavens and earth.)

We are continuing our look at our EM vision- growing in the richness of the gospel. We will look at Paul’s beginning remarks in his most theological masterpiece in the book of Romans.

Read Romans 1:16-17

Community Group Discussion Questions

2. Why would Paul say that he is not ashamed of the gospel? What are some reasons why we may be ashamed of the gospel?

(He is not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes. Would anyone be ashamed of the cure to cancer, freedom for the captive, or victory for the oppressed? Even if it may offend some people, we should not be ashamed, because they are good things that give life and hope for others and ourselves.)

Reasons why we may be ashamed of the gospel include offending others. It is offensive to say that we are the only ones with the truth and the cure. Also, there are many Christians who do not live out and embody the love and humility of the gospel. Therefore, for us to declare the gospel to others is to associate ourselves with those "Christians." Another reason may be that we don't want to be known as fanatics. Fanaticism may be too extreme for our friendships and offensive in our workplaces. Lastly, on a more personal level, we may be ashamed of it, because it's not really good news for us. It's more ok news than good or great news. Maybe we don't really believe it. Maybe we don't think it is as good and great, because we haven't experienced the deep beauty of Christ and we believe sin or the world is better.)

3. What does it look like to live out our salvation in faith?

(It is our human nature to try to save ourselves. We try to earn our right to life and salvation on the basis of our merit. We want to be our own saviors. Therefore, some Christians may believe that we are saved/justified by faith, but we are sanctified by works. But the truth is that we are justified by faith and we are sanctified by faith. We are declared righteous by our faith, and then we who are righteous live by faith.)

This means that we give, serve, love, and obey in faith. We don't rest upon our works, but we rest upon His finished work for us. We stop looking ourselves for our righteousness, worth, dignity, and purpose, and we look to Christ in faith for all those things. We turn our eyes away from the temptation of our idols, because we turn to Jesus in faith.)

Final Thoughts: *Simply put, the gospel is the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for our salvation. In it, we have the freedom from sin, the power for life, and the hope of eternity in our hearts. We grow in its richness, because in it, we find Christ. We find His righteousness in His character and His love in His heart for us. We find His finished work, which is the foundation for our life and peace in Him. At the end of the day, the gospel is good news, because we get God.)*