

JESUS Talks

Ideas worth spreading

JESUS TALKS Part 6: Loosing My Religion Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Matthew 15:1-9]

*Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old traditions? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat." Jesus replied, "**And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? you cancel (nullify or make of no effect) the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'**"*

Religion = our external attempts to know and please God.

Grace = God reaching down to be in relationship with us.

[John 5:39]

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.”

“I used to think I could learn more about Jesus by studying him, but now I know Jesus doesn't want stalkers ... I must get to know him ”
-Bob Goff -

[Luke 14:1-6 (AMP)]

It happened one Sabbath, when He went for a meal at the house of one of the ruling Pharisees, that they were watching Him closely and carefully [hoping to entrap Him]. ² And there in front of Him was a man who had dropsy (extreme swelling). ³ And Jesus asked the lawyers and the Pharisees, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they kept silent. Then He took hold of the man and healed him, and sent him on his way. ⁵ Then He said to them, “Which one of you, having a son or an ox that falls into a well, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” ⁶ And they were unable to reply to this.

[Matthew 5:17]

*“Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. **No, I came to accomplish their purpose.**”*

[Matthew 5:48]

*You therefore, **be perfect** (complete, whole and fully developed) , even as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

[Romans 5:20]

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. ²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever experienced a "religious" atmosphere? How did that work for you?**
- 2. What are some of the differences between Religion and Grace? Has your life seen more religion or grace?**
- 3. Have you ever fallen in to the trap of thinking you were somehow more righteous because you happened to pray like you know you should or read your bible everyday that week? How can we shift from thinking we earn our place in Gods presence to knowing it is His love for us, that affords us a spot at the throne?" How can we "lose our religion"?**
- 4. What is your hearts response toward a relationship based on rules (religion) and how does your heart respond to unconditional acceptance (grace)?**
- 5. What is your part in making our church a place where the grace of God overwhelms those who feel rejected and unworthy?**
- 6. Pray over each other and ask Gods grace to fill the room. Ask God to remove the spirit of religion from us so that we can produce an atmosphere of grace that will usher in the compassion of Christ to those we interact with at church at home and at work.**