



What Would Jesus Undo? – Hypocrisy

Date: Sunday 16th September 2018

Speakers: Rosie & Andrew McNeil

Key Verses: Matthew 6: 1-6 & 16-18, Luke 12:1

Talk Summary

- Hypocrisy - It's so easy to see in other people's lives but it's hard to spot in our own. Hypocrisy is not the gap between what we do and what we wish we did. Hypocrisy is the gap between what we show and who we really are.
- We instinctively react to hypocrisy. Probably the number one objection to faith is that "Christians are hypocrites."
- Who is the hypocrite? It's the one who wants to look good on the outside, but on the inside it's a very different story. Hypocrisy is a cover up.
- We can cover up our own shortcomings by judging others (Matthew 7:3-5). We can cover up and pretend that everything is awesome because we are in fear (of rejection or loss of reputation).
- It is not enough to have the right behaviour, if you have the wrong motives for that behaviour. Even when engaged in the activities of prayer, fasting, giving and serving others we can be hypocrite's functioning from fear or pride.
- Our motivation is to see God get the glory and not us (the hypocrite). Our understanding of the good news of Jesus sets a new foundation for our motivation.

- 'The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time.' (Tim Keller)
- Our father sees what is done in secret and promises to reward us.
- What would Jesus undo about hypocrisy? What does he want for us instead? He wants authenticity, he wants reality. He wants the real us, in real relationship with him and participating in real community.

Small Group Questions

- Describe how you feel or what you think about when you hear the word "hypocrisy."
- Who are some of the least hypocritical people you know? What stands out about them?
- Can you ever identify with the challenge of doing the right things with the wrong motivation; prayer, giving, serving?
- Share some of the different ways you have deepened your friendship with Jesus.
- What are the most helpful resources or patterns of prayer that have helped you enter Jesus' presence.

To ponder or pray about this week

The week of prayer is a great way to hit refresh in our own relationship with Jesus. Why not use the resources, workshops and prayer space to help you spend some time in God's presence asking Him where you may not have been authentic?