

You Can Begin Again

When You Surrender in the Wilderness (Part 1)

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – September 17, 2017

1. Open in prayer.
2. Pastor Derwin made the following statement in the sermon: "There is a new you waiting to be unveiled. There is a more beautiful, more human you that is longing to introduce him or herself to you and the world. Who you are meant to be is found in a covenantal relationship with the One you are made in the image of." Take a few moments to discuss.
3. Pastor said, "From the Garden of Eden through the Ancient Jews history and up to this present day, Satan, the deceiver, has tempted and deceived us to wear three false identities that distort our souls and lead us away from God and His purpose for our lives."
 - The first false identity comes from Temptation #1: I Am What I Do (Performance)
 - o Peter Scazzero, in his book Emotionally Healthy Spirituality says, "Our culture will ask you: What have you achieved? How have you demonstrated your usefulness? What do you do? Most of us consider ourselves worthwhile if we have accomplished significant success in family, work, school, church, and relationships." (1*)
 - o Discuss why placing our identity in our performance is destructive.
 - Read Luke 4:1-13.
4. Pastor Derwin asked, "Why was Jesus led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil?" Read Luke 4:1-4.
 - Jesus was led into the wilderness, "To rewrite our story of unfaithfulness with His story of faithfulness. Will you receive and be incorporated into His story?" Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3.
 - o Note: Jesus relives the life of Adam, the story of Israel and all of humanity faithfully because we are unfaithful. Jesus retraces Israel's 40-year journey in the wilderness with a 40-day journey. Israel is unfaithful to God when tempted by Satan: instead of relying on the God who redeemed them from Egypt, they rely on their performance and build a golden calf to worship.
 - o Jesus is faithful to God the Father when He is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. When we place our faith in the Messiah, Jesus, then the Holy Spirit incorporates and seals us into the Messiah Himself. Therefore, His perfect faithfulness is given to us as a gift because we are in Him. We are eternally united to Jesus. His worth is ascribed to us. His value is ascribed to us. His performance belongs to us.
 - o Discuss.

5. How do you surrender in the wilderness?

- Remember that you are a part of the new people of God living in the New Exodus.
 - o Note: God has written a story of redemption, the Exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, which is also the story of the church.
 - o How are we, the church, the new people of God, living in the New Exodus?
- Remember, you are incorporated into Jesus' faithful performance.
 - o Read Luke 4:4 and John 6:35. Discuss the implications.

6. Read Ephesians 1:3-6 then close by praying the following prayer:

"Abba, thank You that Jesus is our performance and our enough-ness. Our unfaithful performance has been engulfed by His faithful performance. May our hearts be glad and overwhelmed with the reality that before the world began, You chose Jesus to be our Savior, and by our faith Him, we are incorporated and chosen in Him. In Him, we are a holy and blameless people because His faithfulness has made us holy and blameless. Thank You that You have adopted us in Your Son and now we are a family of sons and daughters. Because we are adopted in Him, we can never be fatherless again. Our sin debt has been cancelled, our crimes have been forgiven, we can begin again. And Father, You did this because it brings You pleasure to incorporate us into Your Beloved Son. Now we are beloved sons and daughters in Your family called the Church who live eternally in Jesus' faithfulness. May we no longer fall for the lie, "I am what I do." We are what Christ has done for us. Amen."