

Sermon Discussion Guide

Revelation: Rescued
Revelation 7:1-4, 9-17
September 27, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to use the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What are your hopes for the remainder of the year 2020? Where do you find yourself placing your hope where you shouldn't?
2. Was there a time in your life when you needed to be rescued - a time when there was a reasonable chance that you might lose your life? How did that experience change you?
3. Ray said that Revelation is book of hope, like that of a person caught in a fire who knows they're going to be rescued. How does this impact your reading/ understanding of Revelation?

Rescued: The Future.

1. Part of the picture of the future in this passage is a restored community. What have been some of your past and recent experiences with a fractured community?

2. Did you grow up with diversity? Is diversity something you long for today? What does it mean that it was important enough for the writer of Revelation to include a description of people from every nation and tribe in this passage?

3. How does Jesus' work and grace repair fractured community and enable the bonds between races and tribes to be restored?

4. Citing the story of Anthony Ray Hinton and Henry Hayes and their unlikely friendship in prison, Ray said, "Sometimes it seems that there is more grace in the prisons of Alabama than in the church." Reflect on this. Have you ever contributed to a lack of grace in the church?

5. When was the first (or most memorable) time in your life that you experienced love and community? What made it so impactful?

Rescued: The Relationship

1. Discuss the general truth that "rescued people tend to make a big deal of their rescuer." Would you say that you make a big deal of God as your rescuer?

2. What are the dangers of a lukewarm faith? Why is lukewarm faith so common? What is the solution to a lukewarm faith?

3. Ray talked about how we pass on our passions to others. What passions have/did you pass on to your kids and grandkids? Was a love for Jesus one of them?

Rescued: The Security

1. How does it change our experience of suffering when we know that we have ultimate safety sealed for us by the Holy Spirit?
2. Have you had an experience of God rescuing you before? What things/situations would you say you need to be rescued from currently in your life?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?