



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Heart of Christ: Security

Hebrews 4:14-5:2

January 9 & 10, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to *experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power*. We want him to be at work by His Spirit, ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage 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. Paul David Tripp writes, "On the rough, rocky, and often dark path between the 'already' and the 'not yet,' there is nothing your weary heart needs more than to know the beauty of the heart of Jesus. It is that beauty alone that has the power to overwhelm all the ugly you have encountered along the way." We have seen a lot of ugly in our nation this past week. How has the beauty of the heart of Jesus provided comfort to your soul during these dark times? How might it encourage you going forward?
2. In the introduction to the sermon, Ray talked about how the gospel makes it safe for us to tell the truth about ourselves. What did he mean by this?

3. We are all insecure, worried about what other people think of us. Yet the only thing that matters is what Jesus thinks of us. How do you think Jesus views you? When you imagine him looking at you, do you believe that he is for you? Or are you worried that he is displeased with you?

Jesus' Heart: Able to Sympathize.

1. Contrary to what we might think, Jesus is not angered or ashamed by our weakness, but meets us there. He is able to sympathize because he has already gone through it. When you are struggling with your own sin and weakness, it is easy or hard for you to believe that Jesus understands your struggles? Why do you think that is?
2. As an example of how Jesus sympathizes with us, Ray shared the moving story of Father Damien, a Belgian priest spent 16 years ministering among a leper community in Hawaii, eventually contracting and dying of this disease himself. Thinking about your own community and calling, what are some tangible ways you might be called to "suffer with" others? How might you demonstrate, in words and in actions, Christ's heart for us through your own life?
3. Ray said, "If you belong to Jesus, you have a friend who can't bear to keep himself away from you." Take a few moments and reflect on this statement. Is this how you normally think of Jesus?

Jesus' Heart: Deals with us Gently.

1. Are you a safe person? If someone were to come to you and share their struggles and weaknesses, would they be met with sympathy, or judgment? Do you "cancel" those who have wronged you? How might embracing Jesus' gentle heart change the way you treat others?

2. While Jesus' heart is gentle towards those who belong to him, he is not gentle towards everyone. Scripture clearly warns of judgment for those who do not believe. Do you struggle to reconcile Jesus' gentleness and his judgment? How might holding these two truths together impact how you relate to unbelievers?

Jesus' Heart: Perseverance.

1. Read and reflect on John 6:37, 39. Passages such as these teach us that once you belong to Jesus, you are safe and secure. He will never cast you aside. You can't lose your salvation. Is this a new concept to you? If you grew up in the church, was this something you were taught?
2. Do you worry that God has a limit to his mercy?
3. If you belong to Jesus, it is literally impossible for him to cast you out. Jesus is constrained by his character—he is not able to be other than who he is or to go against what he has promised. And he has promised to never cast out those who come to him. Take a moment to reflect on this truth. How does it bring you comfort? How will it change the way you live this week?

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?