



BREAKING THE ICE

Are you a goal oriented person? When it comes to setting a goal, what helps you decide on what and how your goal should be oriented?

Which part of “Everyone’s Welcome, Nobody’s Perfect and Anything’s Possible” speaks to you the most and why?

MAIN CONTENT

This year, Pastor Kevin has been walking us through the vision of “Everyone’s Welcome, Nobody’s Perfect and, with Jesus, Anything’s Possible.” We started the series asking this question: Is what’s most important to God most important to me?

1. What did God reveal to you last week about the things He values of importance versus the things you value as important?

Nobody’s Perfect. It’s pretty easy for us to know that. We know our neighbors aren’t perfect, our family members aren’t perfect our friends aren’t and even ourselves. We.Are.Not.Perfect. But as the Bible describes Jesus in John 1:14, we know that HE is perfect. He balances grace and truth perfectly.

2. Do you lean more towards giving grace or more towards providing truth?

Pastor Kevin gave us an analogy of what happens when we look in the mirror. Mirror’s do not hide anything. We see everything including our wrinkles and blemishes. But how often have we held up a mirror to our hearts? What would we see in there? We know that our brokenness goes much deeper than what others can see on the outside.

3. If you were to hold a mirror up to your heart, what would you see?

We all have healing that needs to take place in our hearts. We were born into this earth as sinners. We’re self-centered, self-absorbed and self-deceived. But Jesus showed up to show us grace and truth to help us see where we depend on ourselves too freely and to show us the way to the Father. We need Jesus to

show us grace and truth so we can repent from our way and turn to God to do things His way.

4. Describe a time where you felt Jesus show you grace and truth in a situation.

Our text today is from Luke 5. We see Jesus forgive the sins of a man who was crippled. Jesus forgave him of his sins before he physically healed him. He did this because Jesus knows our hearts are more important than our physical ailments. The opportunity to walk with Him and live with Him in heaven is more important than our physical issues.

What's important to Jesus is loving the Father and loving the people He loves.

As we read in Luke 5:27 we see Jesus ask Levi to come follow Him. Levi who was a little bit of an outcast who people did not like. But Jesus doesn't look at what we've done or what Levi had done. He provides us grace and tells us the truth that He is the way. All we need to do is repent of our sins and turn to Him.

5. Who in your life provides grace and truth to you when you need it?

Levi got up and followed Jesus. This is significant because Levi left his brokenness and was restored following Jesus. Jesus' grace and truth spoke to Levi and he chose to follow Him.

Levi believed in Jesus so much that he held a party for Jesus at this house. We can read about it in Luke 5:28-32.

Jesus came for everyone. Even the ones that think they do not need Him. We can get caught up in our doing good and become self-righteous. Jesus wants us to know, even though we are doing good, we still need Him.

6. Have you ever felt that the good you were doing was enough for Jesus? Explain. What made you change your mind to rely on Him?

Jesus created a community where everyone's welcome because nobody is perfect. When we encounter Him, we can be real and honest with Him. He wants us to bring our sin and weaknesses to Him.

Repentance is turning to God and we have to continually repent to Him because we continually sin.

Just as Jesus is all grace and all truth to us, we have the opportunity to provide grace and truth to others. Most of us err on one side, more grace or more truth. When we surround ourselves with all truth we can become self-righteous and legalistic. When we surround ourselves with all grace we can make excuses for our sin and live in licentiousness. We need to have both.

Repentance keeps bringing us back to Jesus and to both truth and grace.

7. Is there anything you need to repent of today? Do you want to share it with the group?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, it's easy for us to either look at all grace or all truth. Will you help us see that both of those are good things when we are in relationship with you. Will you lead us to repentance for the things that make us self-righteous and dependent on our own good deeds? Will you show us where we continually sin and look over our mistakes that have something to do with a deeper issue we may not be aware of? Help me become a person of both your grace and truth for others, and surround me with people who can do the same for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

This week take note of how you respond to situations.

- + Did you react with grace or truth?
- + How did others feel about your response? Ask those close to you whom you trust.
- + Where do you need to find balance between grace and truth?
- + Who do you need to surround yourself with more: grace or truth speakers?