



BREAKING THE ICE

What kind of airline traveler are you? Do you like to talk to your neighbor or do you like a quiet flight?

Last week Dwan talked about worshipping God with singing. How did you engage in worship this last week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we heard from our good friend Lisa Harper. Lisa shared some fun personal stories and related them to a very relational God.

1. Do you see God as a relational God or more distant?

Lisa shared a quote from A.W. Tozer, "For millions of Christians, God is no more real than He is to non-Christians. They go through life trying to love an ideal and be loyal to a mere principle."

2. How can you relate to the A.W. Tozer quote? Do you feel like God is real in your life, how?

Read John 3:1-17

God is a relational God. What we see in John 3 is a story about Nicodemus who was a part of the elite community. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Jesus could have asked him to come during the day where everyone would see them talking but Nicodemus was invited to come when he could, at night where no one could see him. God shows each of us His mercy to come to Him when we are ready and He will meet us where we are.

3. Do you feel like you have to come to Jesus all put together or do you come to Him in your mess? What makes you feel that way?

Lisa mentioned that the Bible is a love story. Jesus is perfectly holy and perfectly merciful. He chooses to be close to us. It doesn't matter if you are a part of the elite or the outcast he loves and has the same mercy for every person.

Read John 4:1-26

In this scripture reference Jesus goes through Samaria. Jesus had to go through Samaria to show love and compassion to the woman at the well. Samaritans were half Jewish and were outcast. Jesus didn't care that they were outcast. He loved them anyway.

Jesus spent time with the woman at the well in the daytime when everyone would see him. He didn't care that she was an outcast.

4. Who do you know or how have you reached out to a modern day "outcast" and showed God's love to them?

When our heart is filled with God's love we become less about performance and more devoted to sharing about Jesus. When we really grasp His love for us and others we can't help but share it with those we come in contact with. Jesus went to extraordinary lengths to let us know He loves us.

Read Leviticus 7:11-15

In this scripture reference we see how gratitude was exemplified. When someone gave thanks to God it was through a food sacrifice. These sacrifices were large and had to be consumed by the end of the day. The one making the sacrifice could never consume the vast amount given to God so they would invite their friends and neighbors to share the meal with them.

What Lisa taught us through this scripture was the biblical context of gratitude is most often communal. In other words, when we began to grasp grace it has a redemptive effect on the culture around us.

5. Who in your community has shown you immense grace? How has that affected your relationship?

God loves for us to be in community with one another showing each other about His grace and mercy.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for loving us and caring deeply for us. Thank you for showing us mercy and grace through community. Help us be open to the community you have for us and to share your love with them.
Amen

ACTION STEP

+ Who can you share Jesus with this week? Pray and ask God to give you opportunities to share your story of Jesus' love with others.