

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Game Time” (pt. 3) – 8/24/2014

Scripture: John 12:37-50

Bottom Line: TCC exists to lead people into a growing relationship with God and each other through Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION: What do you think about mission statements? Why are they useful? What do you think Jesus' mission statement would be? As followers of Jesus, our mission statement should be directly related to his statement. Today we will look at Jesus' last public message to learn about his mission.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 12:37-43

What does this passage show you about the hearts of the people?

- John clearly states that the people still did not believe even though Jesus had performed many signs. We like to think that we would be different, that if we saw Jesus perform a sign like raising Lazarus from the dead that we would believe without reservation. The truth is the hearts of people today are no different than these people. Yet, the unbelief of the people did not take Jesus by surprise. God had predicted this response from many of the people long ago through the Prophet Isaiah. The people were having trouble believing because the identity of Jesus clashed too much with things the people held dear.

What does this passage show you about Jesus that made it hard for the people to believe? (Hint: Have the SG look at Isaiah 53 and 6)

- Verse 38 quotes Isaiah 53:1. Isaiah 53 speaks of God's messiah being rejected by God's people. He was viewed as weak and lowly. To follow a Messiah like that means giving up your comfort, serving the poor, and associating yourself with people on the fringe of society (i.e. tax collectors).
- Verse 40 quotes Isaiah 6. Here the exact opposite picture of a Messiah is shown. Here we see a highly exalted King who rules the universe with

supreme power. To follow a Messiah like this would be to give up all control of your life.

- Verses 42-43 say that some people did believe but they did not tell anyone because they feared what other people would think and do to them. For them, the approval of man was more important than the approval of God.

Which one of these 3 do you struggle with (comfort, control, or approval) that has hindered your walk with God?

Read John 12:44-50

Do you remember what it was like to be in the darkness of sin and then to experience the light of God's grace?

- Too often Christians forget that they once were lost, separated from God. But it is good to remember that, not only for your own thankfulness to God, but also that you can identify with those who are in darkness and need Jesus.

From John 12:37-50, what do you think Jesus' mission statement would be?

- Example: "I am the high king of all creation and the humble servant of the helpless, and I have come to restore you to a relationship with God."

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

What does the death of Christ secure for you?

- It solves our sin problem. Christ's death paid the penalty of my sins.
- It solves our position problem. We are now reconciled to God as his sons and daughters, not his enemies.
- It solves our power problem. We were powerless to do anything about our condition, but when Christ died, we were promised that we will be perfect once again.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How can you embrace the mission of our church?

- Memorize the mission statement. It's the bottom line of today's guide.
- Pray for the mission of the church.
- Talk about the mission of TCC in conversations with both Christians and non-Christians alike.