

Home Group Questions

The week of 5/26/2019

John 1:19-34; Matthew 11:1-6

JOHN THE BAPTIST

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the “Ordinary Superheroes” of the Old Testament. The series ended with a look at John the Baptist who is described by Jesus as the greatest man who ever lived. He is included in this series even though he is in the New Testament, because he is an amazing bridge between the Old Testament and the New.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Matthew 11:1-11. Considering the fact that Jesus describes John as the greatest man ever “born of women”, why is it surprising that John had this struggle in his heart? Why is it not surprising that he had this struggle considering the circumstances he was in (in prison about to lose his life). This struggle reminds us that no one is immune to struggles or times of doubt. Here are four strategies that can help a person deal with doubt/struggles in our faith. Discuss them in light of the verses that go along with each one:

- A. Release your past hurts/hangups that cannot be changed. *Philippians 3:13***
- B. Respond rightly to your present by rejecting negative/destructive thoughts. *2 Cor. 10:5; Romans 12:2***
- C. Refocus on your eternal potential while in your faith struggle. *1 Timothy 1:18-19***
- D. Rejoice in God’s promises as you move forward faithfully. *Hebrews 10:23***

2. Read Numbers 13:25 – 14:10 which records the report the spies give after spying out the land for 40 days.

What are some things that surprise you about this passage? What could have happened in the hearts and minds of the 10 spies who doubted God’s ability to give them victory?

The Lord often illustrates physically in the Old Testament what He desires for us spiritually today. The Lord’s goals are far more than just delivering us from the penalty of sin, but His desire is to give us a life of overcoming doubt and experiencing abundance and victory in our lives.

Take some time to share various things that have hindered your faith in God, or have caused doubt, thereby keeping us from experiencing an abundant, victorious life.

3. Read Hebrews 3:7-19. What are some principles that the writer of Hebrews is making to our lives today, from the experience of the Jews in the wilderness?

Often, believers get stuck in spiritual mediocrity because they refuse to enter into the battle that can give them victory in their lives. Talk about how you can face your battles of doubt head on in your life, and come out stronger on the other side of that struggle.

4. Below are steps that can aid people in their journey to victory in their spiritual lives. Discuss these steps, and how you can apply them to specific obstacles you are facing in your life to triumph and have victory in your life.

- Face the source of you doubt
- Ask God and others for help
- Initiate steps to grow from this struggle
- Trust God if the struggle has no definitive remedy/answer
- Have an open heart to what God wants to teach you

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for heart that trusts God and faces any doubts that you have head on with a desire to grow stronger through the struggle!!