



Moving Beyond Motions : Corporate
Sermon Discussion Questions – February 21, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 4:17 (NLT) From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Revelation 7:9-10 (NLT) After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

Acts 3:1-11 (NLT) ... But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” ... the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went to the Temple with them.

Acts 3:12-21 (NLT) ... It is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate... You killed the author of life. Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed... Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Warm Up:

Last week, we started the Corporate Holy Pattern of worship. What are some of your favorite forms of worship? What are some of your most memorable moments of worship? What made them memorable?

Discussion:

1. In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom said, “*There is no desire to control... The goal for a relationship focused on knowing someone is to surrender, to enter into a deep, meaningful relationship.*”

What might it look like to embrace surrender instead of control? Who do you know who models healthy surrender over control in their relationships? How might this translate into your relationship with God?

2. After describing Lewis Swedes’ metaphor of heaven, Pastor Tom asks a few questions.

What if life is just a beginning? What if all that we endure, all that we celebrate, all that we survive, all that we experience is just a start? Would it change things for you?

Take some time to work through these questions. How do the answers to these questions impact our worship now?

3. In his message, Pastor Tom described joy as the thread between the now and the not yet.

He said, “*Joy is the anticipation of what is now and what is on its way.*”

What is an event you have recently anticipated? How did you experience joy in the time leading up to that event and in the event itself?

4. Read Matthew 4:17.

What is Jesus teaching us about life now and the kingdom of God? What does this verse say about the now and the not yet?

5. Read Acts 3:1-21.

What stands out most to you? What might be the now and the not yet in these verses? What might we learn about the kingdom of God from these verses?

6. Excerpt from Tom’s message:

The lame, healed man actually had an advantage over most of us because he knew his now was not great.

What are some of your reactions to this statement? How might knowing the now was not that great improve someone’s perspective? How might it hinder it?

7. In his message, Pastor Tom connected joy and the idea of the now and the not yet.

What relationship do you see between our experience of joy and our beliefs about the kingdom of God? How have you seen this connection play out in your own life?

8. Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Joy is a living, breathing battle cry, not a weak thing. Joy is a strong thing. A dangerous thing. Joy gives resilience and strength to declare something about our king and our kingdom... when we choose to worship in joy, we are making an announcement: our God reigns.

How is this description of joy different from how the world defines joy? When have you experienced this kind of joy?

Next Steps:

The corporate holy patterns we have covered in the previous weeks are:

confession- admitting our sins to ourselves, to God and to others

guidance- hearing God's voice and discerning His will in Christian community

worship- drawing near to God through adoration and holy living

How has incorporating these patterns effected your life so far? What are some difficulties you've experienced in putting these patterns into practice?

Consider today being a practice for the "not yet."

How might your responses to today's circumstances change if you kept in mind that they were pointing to the "not yet?"