



Filters - Power and Weakness
Sermon Discussion Questions - April 18, 2021

Scripture Passages:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Colossians 1:15 (NIV) He is the image of invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV) But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Warm Up:

Toward the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom gave the example of Tom Brady and Kevin Durant who both received negative reviews at the beginning of their sports careers where they were labeled as weak.

What other examples can you think of where someone has been perceived as weak, but in the end turned out much stronger than expected?

Discussion:

1) Last week, Tom introduced the idea of an unholy trinity, or unholy filters in which we view

life, and challenged everyone to identify their own. Tom gave the example of Control, Insecurity, and Angst.

What are some other examples of words that could describe an unholy trinity? (ex: Shame, Fear...Etc.)

2) As you reflected on your own unholy trinity, what did you learn about its impact on your perspective? Did you find it difficult to narrow it down to three? How did you narrow it down?

3) Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

What might Paul mean by a thorn in his flesh? How might you describe the experience of having a thorn in your flesh?

4) Pastor Tom made this statement in reference to the passage in 2 Corinthians 12: *God was in it and it was a messenger from Satan. What this means is we must have a category in our lives that allows for bad things to be in our lives and for God to still be good and at work in our lives.*

Why might this be an important perspective as we think through our own filters/weaknesses? How might this perspective shape the way we think about our struggles?

5) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Our weaknesses are the place God will most frequently demonstrate his power.

How have you seen this truth in your life? How might this change your perspective on your weaknesses?

6) In his message, Pastor Tom described Satan's role as the messenger. He says Satan uses two big lies, or thorns, as a strategy to attach our weakness:

1. What you have done is who you are. (Identity)

2. This is who you will always be. (Future)

How might you know if one of these lies is at work in your own life? Why do you think Satan might choose to go after our identity and our future?

7) Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

What stands out most to you about God's response? What stands out most to you about Paul's response to God? What would it look like to delight in your weaknesses for Christ's sake?

Next Steps:

Homework from Pastor Tom:

1. Draw two columns on a piece of paper. On the top of the left column, write your unholy filters. Record the lies and accusations you believe about yourself through these filters. Put the paper aside.

- 2. Read Psalm 139, Ephesians 2:1-10, and 1 Peter 1:3-9.**
- 3. Go back to your paper. On the top of the right column, start by writing was God may desire to give you instead of the unholy trinity (think opposites). Record the Holy Truth you just read about yourself from God's perspective.**
- 4. Stop believing the lies.**