

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

October 17/18, 2015; If

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: Romans 8:1

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed “if only” regrets” in a sermon Pastor Mark titled “No Regrets.” These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: Pastor Mark shared the idea of “meal regret” – realizing once you’ve seen what someone else ordered that YOU should have ordered that. Have you ever experienced meal regret? If so, what meal do you wish you had tried? If not, what meal is your go-to favorite?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. What “if only” regrets came to mind listening to this sermon?

Specific Questions:

1. “Your greatest regret will not be things you did, but things you didn’t do but wish you had.”
Does this statement resonate with you? Pastor Mark explained the difference between:
Action Regrets – Sins of Commission.
Inaction Regrets – Sins of omission; sins of not doing things you could, leaving things on the table, not obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
Which ones are more difficult for you? Why?
2. Pastor Mark explained the difference between condemnation and conviction, stating that God is not a condemning God, but the Holy Spirit does convict. He defined them as:
Conviction: feeling of guilt over unconfessed sin; sin that hasn’t been made right, dealt with.
Condemnation: feeling of guilt over confessed sin; once we confess sin, God has forgotten.
Do you ever find it difficult to forgive yourself for sins you’ve already confessed? If so, why? If not, why not?

3. “The enemy wants to make you believe that you’re defined by what you’ve done wrong, but you’re not. God has redeemed you.” What lies are the easiest for the enemy to make you believe? Why are those difficult to believe God has redeemed you from?
4. Pastor Mark requested that we not let regret keep us from stepping into what we’ve been called to. What has regret kept you from doing? What can you do to take steps into what you’ve been called to do?
5. “We need to quit living like Jesus is nailed to the cross. Right now he’s seated next to His Father in power and glory. The only thing still nailed to the cross is our sins,” Pastor Mark declared. In what ways are you living like, “Jesus is still nailed to the cross?” What changes do you need to make to live like Jesus is seated in power and glory?
6. Pastor Mark declared that God leverages our mistakes for his kingdom purposes while the enemy wants to leverage our regrets against us. What is your response to this statement? Do you believe it? Why or why not? Have you ever experienced the enemy trying to leverage your regrets against you? How did you move through that?
7. “You’re going to help people where you’ve been hurt. The mistakes you’ve made are the exact places God wants to use to help others.” Have you ever experienced this, either as the one helping or the one receiving the help? How does this realization impact the way you view the hurt you’ve felt and the mistakes you’ve made?
8. Pastor Mark stated that, “we owe a debt of grace to everyone we meet because *we’ve* already been shown so much grace.” What are ways you can show people grace in your day-to-day life? What is the importance of extending grace to others?

Challenge:

Read, Pray, Act: Read and pray through Romans 8 each day throughout this sermon series. Meditate each day on the verse that the Holy Spirit makes stand out to you, trying to memorize at least one verse each week.