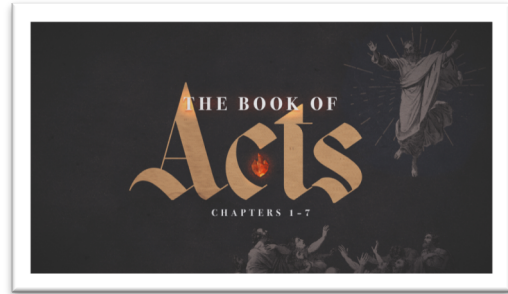


WHAT SHALL WE DO?

ACTS 2:37-41 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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The gospel compels me to respond to Jesus from the heart (2:37a) as an act of the will (2:37b) after thinking it through (2:38-40) with a public declaration of my faith (2:41).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think it means to be “cut to the heart” after hearing the gospel clearly?

Look at Psalm 51:17 which sets an example of a repentant spirit. How can you tell when someone is relying on their religious ritual and right living (outward response) rather than bringing a truly “broken spirit and a contrite heart” to God?

“Not my will but yours be done.”—Jesus

“There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, “Thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, “All right, then, have it your way.”—C. S. Lewis.

Have you ever fought against your own will so that you ended up doing what God wanted instead of what you wanted? Describe the tension in that situation.

What helps you follow God’s will in the cases where what you want is not what He would want for you?

“Think it through... nothing this world offers satisfies for any length of time; the building of career, wealth; the fleeting nature of life itself; the fickleness of friends; the despair we feel at the troubles this world is experiencing economically, environmentally, politically; even the fragility of family, marriage. Everything is crooked, perverse, broken, warped. Christ alone is our hope for an abundant life here and now and eternal life to come. Think it through.”

Have you experienced the disappointments related to seeking ultimate satisfaction through your career, wealth, friendships, or family? What have you since found out that is more satisfying in your relationship with Jesus?

***Repentance is...
regret for sin; sorrow over sin; confession of sin; then, intent to not live that way any longer;
Repentance is... belief in and acceptance of Christ.***

Repenting from your pursuit of sin requires ongoing moral changes. What had/has to change to be consistent with a heartfelt, fully thought through decision to follow Jesus? (*Don't veil your thoughts behind safe metaphors here. Instead, use this list of check points developed from Jesus' sermon on the mount to help you get specific.*)

In my heart, I respond to Jesus and the good news about him with a commitment...

- to developing a righteousness that bears up under scrutiny (Matthew 5:20)
- to examine my anger in order to prevent grudges and engage in reconciliation (Matthew 5:22, 25)
- to get control over lust by not catering to what delights my body (Matthew 5:29-30)
- to avoid divorce for convenience sake and work to honour the life long vows I've made (Matthew 5:31)
- to be a person of my word, so that my testimony is reliable and does not require exaggeration (Matthew 5:37)
- to be willing to suffer offenses without retaliation (Matthew 5:39-42)
- to love my enemies by treating them hospitably (Matthew 5:44)
- to not seek glory from my charitable activities (Matthew 6:2)
- to avoid false piety by making a show of my religion (Matthew 6:6, 16)
- to invest my resources without making an idol of money (Matthew 6:25)
- to be satisfied with the simple care God provides for me (Matthew 6:25, 33)
- to not condemn a person for a small sin while I have a glaring fault to deal with (Matthew 7:4)

Does your lifestyle normally declare that you have responded to the Gospel and chosen to follow Christ with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength? If yes, then how is your faith affecting the way you live outside of your time with Christian people?