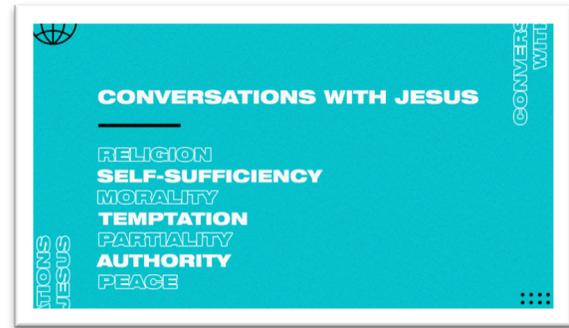


A CONVERSATION ABOUT MORALITY

JOHN 4:1-41 // TODD DUGARD
MAY 3, 2020



See morality the way Jesus sees morality...

1. Meet people where they are no matter their moral choices
2. Believe that no one is beyond the reach of God
3. Present the gospel, not moral reformation, as their hope
4. Navigate each person's journey with grace and patience
5. Watch as guilt, fear, and shame melt away at conversion
6. Recognize that there is a God-established standard of morality
7. Pursue and encourage the holiness of God for all believers

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are one or two present-day examples of people who are marginalized because of their behaviour and disregard for moral norms?

Why might we make social distinctions about moral behaviour and then distance ourselves from people we judge as "bad"?

Jesus intentionally set aside the moral distancing customs of his day to reach out to this woman. He did that by asking her to give him a drink of water. She did not expect this at all (John 4:7-9). How did asking to be served help create common ground for a conversation to begin?

What are one or two ways of creating common ground between you and your neighbours, even if you hold a different moral standard than they do?

Even by today's relaxed standards on life-long commitments, five marriages followed by a sixth relationship is extreme. Yet, Jesus can express awareness of her situation without condemning it. What happens to your conversations when you start offering judgement about sin instead of guidance to living water?

If you find that judgment shuts down conversation, how will you learn to talk about behaviour without evaluating it immediately as good or bad? Identify the sermon point that will be most helpful for you in this regard.

Think now about the last time you had a conversation with someone who needs to trust Jesus more. If the communication has stalled because of moral differences, what could you refocus the discussion on so that it can move forward?

"I don't want to be known for my good moral choices; I want to be known as someone who is a sinner who was saved by Jesus Christ; there's a huge difference in that" – Todd Dugard

If you share Pastor Todd's conviction but have relied too much on a good moral reputation, what can you emphasize in your testimony instead of morality?

Our first response to Christ might involve overcoming guilt, shame, and/or fear. Continuing to follow him produces moral changes in our character as we are shaped by the Holy Spirit. What does an honest pursuit of holiness look like for you now compared to when you first trusted Christ?