

Self-Righteousness: The Embittered and Unforgiving Heart

Heart-Targeting Questions

Instructions

For us to help those struggling with self-righteousness and embittered, unforgiving hearts, we need to enact what we encourage others to do. Like Jesus' point in his judging parable, we need to remove the log that is in our own eye before we can rightly remove the speck that is in our brother or sister's eye (Matt. 7:1-5). As a group, answer these questions and discuss together how, after answering them yourselves, you can help others with these struggles.

1. Prone to Presumption:
 - a. Is there anyone right now in your life who you are functionally hating?
 - b. Not being merciful to them, not demonstrating grace to them, wanting God to withhold his goodness and grace towards?
 - c. Have you become the arbiter of God's grace and judgement?
2. Sulking in Self-Pity:
 - a. Are some of your prayers right now the result of someone else hurting you, where your prayers towards this hurt are all focused on yourself? Do you pray for those who've hurt you?
 - b. Self-pity is excessive unhappiness towards one's own troubles. Do you find that many of your prayers are focused on your problems?
 - c. Do you struggle giving God praise and expressing thankfulness and gratitude in your prayers?
3. Jonah Posturing:
 - a. Who in your life right now are you Jonah posturing?
 - b. Where do you need to repent?
 - c. Have you ghosted God on this matter?
4. Further Self-Examination:
 - a. Where are you presuming upon God's grace and being the arbiter of God's mercy and grace? Are you bitter and unforgiving?
 - b. Where is your self-righteousness preventing you from experiencing God's mercy and grace in your life?
 - c. What means of grace are your cursing in your life that is God is using to call you to repentance?
 - d. Do you side more with the mariners and the captain on this one, do you think you are more in the sufferer category right now? If so, how?
 - e. Do you side more with the Ninevites, convinced that your wickedness has reached God, and you think he has it out for you, just waiting? If so, why do you find yourselves in the category of sinner?