

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: Stories of Jesus

Title: Living Water

Speaker: Mike Olynyk

Text: John 4:46-53

Date: February 5, 2017



Discussion

Mike focused on the journey of the official, the loving father. To review, re-read John 4:56-53, focusing on the desperation and faith of the official.

- In what ways did this pagan Roman official have to take a step of faith? What was the result?

There are many accounts of Jesus healing people in the gospels. John 20:31 tells us the main purpose for all that Jesus did, including His miracles.

- What are they?
- Is the term "life" just referring to an afterlife? If so, what else?
- Why was it so important that Jesus is known as Messiah, Son of God and life-giver?

What is faith (Hebrews 11:1)? How does someone get more faith which is crucial to our life in Christ? (James 1:2-4)

Mike talked about how many people in the church become practical atheists, professing to be Christians but when push comes to shove in the everyday, they are not willing to give up control nor are they living out the plan God has for them (Ephesians 2:10).

- How would living this way rob one of a John 10:10 life? In what ways could it jade one's view of Christianity?
- Are there areas in your life where you are living as a practical atheist? What are some areas in life where you need to give up control or do something God's way?

Personal check-in and prayer: How are you doing with these challenges? Be bold, share and pray for one another.

- Pray as the official did: if you're feeling desperate, off-load your burdens on Jesus.
- Pray that you will be challenged to make your faith more than crying out to God in desperation; but to be a people of faith that invites God into the everyday of life through faith.

Extra credit: Mike briefly touched on the idea of healing, though it was not the main point of the text. James 5:13ff gives fairly clear guidelines for healing. Explore this passage.

- Why do you think we don't see healing today in our churches? Is there a way to re-capture it? How do you feel that Jesus healed many but not everyone He came in contact with? (Luke 4:25-27; John 5;1-15)
- What is Jesus most concerned with in our lives (life to the full now and for eternity)?
- How do we make sense of the times we have faith yet the person is not healed?