

The Inside Story of Human Life

Dead Men Walking

Ephesians 2:1; John 5:19-27

October 9, 2011

Self-disclosure Questions/Icebreakers

At a funeral visitation, when you stood before the casket, what do you wish you could have said to the person who died?

Scripture – Ephesians 2:1; John 5:19-27

Suggested Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess that too often I take your grace for granted. Help me to understand and apply Your redeeming power and victory defeat of sin in my heart so I can delight even more in Your Grace. Amen.

Sermon Take-Away – If you need/want to review it, Pastor Colin talked about...

1. Three parts to the Inside Story
 - a. Inside story of human life
 - b. Inside story of the Christian life
 - c. Inside story of your future life
2. Inside Story of Human Life – Today’s message is the last of 5 segments.
 - a. The Life You Never Knew – why is the world as it is today?
 - b. The Enigma of the Double Image – what you need to know about yourself
 - 1) You are created in the image of God.
 - 2) You were born in the likeness of your father and mother.
 - c. The Heart Wants What It Wants – By nature we are sinners from birth
 - d. Children of Wrath – By nature we are children of wrath
 - e. Dead Men Walking – By nature we cannot change our position
3. Ephesians 2
 - a. 2:1 – You were dead in your transgressions and sins.
2:12 – You were ... without hope and without God ...
 - b. 2:4 – BUT God ... made us alive in Christ
4. John 5
 - a. Christ offers hope to helpless sinners
Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (v 24)
 - b. Christ gives life to people who are spiritually dead.
For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. (v 21)
 - c. Christ creates new life by speaking.
A time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. (v 25)

5. Two Conclusions

- a. It is always worth sharing the Gospel.

Then the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! (Ezekiel 37:4)

- b. There is hope in Christ for the worst of sinners.

What was your take-away from this week's sermon?

Discussion Questions –

1. Having interacted with five messages regarding the Inside Story of Human Life, what biblical concept(s) is changing your heart and mind?
2. What does “Manny the Mannequin” contribute to your understanding of deadness?
How does this thought impact your expectations as you interact with others about Christ?
3. What comments have you heard when people try to explain sin (the concept of)?
Compare these views with what you are learning from Scripture.
4. Are you able to anticipate who will come to know Christ? Why or why not?
Is it more difficult for God to save some people? Why or why not?
How can Pastor Colin's reaction to the Engel Scale help to clarify your thinking?
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 1 Peter 1:23, John 3:6, Ezekiel 37:4 and Romans 10:17. What is the confidence you can have in sharing the Gospel?
6. From Psalm 119:97-104 and Hebrew 3:12-15 (and other passages you can add), what will help keep your heart from hardening?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I praise you for Your marvelous grace. I love to sing and ask that these old lines go deeper and deeper into my heart and mind - Amazing grace; How sweet the sound; That saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see; 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear; The hour I first believed.