



Trapped: Part 4

Hurricane Matthew Message

Small Group Material

October 9th, 2016

Leader Guide

Bottom Line: When we look underneath our actions we are going to find who or what we trust.

Study Verses: Matthew 4:17, Romans 14:5-19, Romans 8:1-8, Hebrews 11:1

Define The Win: Participants would continue to look underneath their actions and explore their motives. They would realize that their life serves as an expression and reveals to others what they believe about God and His authority in their life.

KEY POINTS

- Righteousness is not about our behavior; it's about being made right with God.
- Our job isn't to obey the rules, but to be an expression of His Kingdom in the world.
- Peace has to do with God's presence - not our circumstances. Joy is the well that gratitude flows from.
- Inheriting the Kingdom of God is not about access, but stewardship. We must become stewards of the Kingdom of God and express that in the world around us.
- Every action is an expression of something. We want our hearts to be so captured by God's love that His ways come out in our actions.
- God wants our motives because motive is the thing God uses.
- Faith is acting on your trust.

ENCOUNTER

- Would you say you are a rule follower? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do? When are you more likely to follow a rule as well as disregard a rule?
- What drives one's motive if they believe the Kingdom of God is something you can gain access to by obeying the rules?
- How do our actions reveal who or what we trust?

FORMATION

- Read Matthew 4:17. What does it mean to live in the Kingdom of God? How would viewing the Kingdom as something you steward, rather than something you gain access to, impact the way you submit to God's authority?
- Read Romans 14:5-19. How do our actions and response to God's authority influence others? How does Paul, the writer of this passage, want his readers to view the commands in light of living in community with others?
- Read Romans 8:1-8. What is law-keeping incapable of doing for us? How did Jesus provide a different way to respond to the rules?
- Read Hebrews 11:1. What part does faith play in our response to God's authority?

EXPRESSION

- Every action is an expression of something. If this is true, what are your actions over the past few weeks expressing? How does this expression make you feel?
- Your actions reveal who or what you trust. If this statement is true, where would one say your trust is placed if they looked at your recent actions?
- Faith is acting on your trust. As it relates to submitting to God's authority and not leaning on your own understanding, where do you need to display faith?

LEADER INSIGHT

Just like obedience fueled by obligation never leads to joy and freedom, neither does rule following provide access to God. Many of us live our lives as if the Kingdom of God is a place we win a ticket to based on our behavior and adherence to the rules. If we act well enough, behave properly and obey all the rules deemed worthy on our checklist, then, and only then, will God accept us and allow us in.

Yet, this isn't why the commands were given. The rules weren't created to make us right, but to expose our need for a Savior. We couldn't do it on our own. We were incapable of reaching God's impossible standard of holiness. Jesus died on a cross to reconcile us to God so that our life lived in

obedience would serve as an expression of God's faithfulness. Righteousness is not about our behavior; it's about being right with God. Due to being reconciled with God, we are able to trust His authority.

When we recognize this point, we approach God differently. Faith is acting on our trust. We submit to His authority because we know that is where life is found. We have the courage to examine our motives and realize that being transparent about its current state is the first step in our transformation. When we look underneath our actions we find who or what we trust. What we do and what we say proclaims to others our view of God and His authority in our life.

Inheriting the Kingdom of God is not about access, but stewardship. We must become stewards of the Kingdom of God and express that to the world around us. Every action is an expression of something. We want our hearts to be so captured by God's love that His ways come out in or action. Our job isn't to obey the rules, but to be an expression of His Kingdom in the world.