

DISCUSSIONNOTES

8.11.19



"The Bible says on Judgment Day there will only be two kinds of people; saved and lost." But Jesus came to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10). Why do people think if they are a good person, and live a good life, they can be saved? Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**. People can't save themselves by their own goodness. Explain why not.

"Why doesn't everybody take advantage of Jesus' offer to be saved? If we are lost in sin, if salvation is offered free through Jesus, why does anyone reject it?" Discuss.

Jesus looked at those questions in a great parable in Luke 8. Read **Luke 8:4-12** and **Zechariah 7:11-12**. Jamie listed several reasons people's hearts become hard as stone. Their upbringing, repeated sin, pride, pain, hypocrisy, familiarity. Read **Matthew 13:15**. Do you have a history of having a hard heart or know someone who does? Explain why and what you or that person did about it.

Read **Matthew 6:33**. Jamie said, *"The only way to do that consistently is to discipline yourself, refocus, and make Jesus and this church a priority in your life."* What is your biggest struggle in living the Christian life? What always seems to set you back a step? Discuss.

Charles Stanley said, *"God's plan for enlarging His kingdom is so simple – one person telling another about the Savior. Yet we're busy and full of excuses. **Just remember, someone's eternal destiny is at stake. The joy you'll have when you meet that person in Heaven will far exceed any discomfort you felt in sharing the gospel.**"* What keeps you from telling others about Jesus? List two things. Then discuss them with the group. What ways can you overcome these things that prevent you from doing God's plan? Then read **Mark 16:15-16**.

Jamie mentioned Jesus wants to do more than just save people from sin. He wants to transform, deepen, and produce an improved personality, better testimony and deeper character. Read **Galatians 5:22-23**. This is the harvest God wants to produce in our lives as we mature. What fruit have you seen grow in yourself? Others? These fruits transform us. What fruit do you struggle with the most? Why?

Read **Galatians 6:9**. Close by discussing a verse that keeps you going. Pray for God to transform you and to keep your focus on Him always!