

KNOWN, PT. 2 - KNOWING OURSELVES AND WHERE JESUS WANTS TO TRANSFORM US

- I. **INTRO:** Grew up in Christian home. Heard the Word. BA Bible. Ministry 2008. Seminary 2010.
 - A. First couple of years of marriage were difficult. Marriage Conference. Left = heard gospel.
 - 1. Knowledge of Word. Teach it. Profession/academic/impress. Never penetrated heart.
 - 2. In my faith, I wore a mask. Didn't want to see: sins/questions/insecurities/struggle.
 - 3. Although I knew Word, I applied it to my mask (false self) rather than my actual self.
 - B. Possible to hear the Word/know/theological expert & not allow it to penetrate your soul.
 - 1. In other words, possible to know the Word and not actually believe. Not be a Christian.
- II. Last wk: Mission/Strategy of Grace Hill. What=**Mission**. How=**Strategy** (how did Jesus do it?)
 - A. Last wk: Teaching. Knowing God through Knowing His Word. Commitment to the Word.
 - B. **Stool**. Last wk: Church has mainly operated with just **one leg** (teaching). Today=**2nd leg**.
 - 1. HEALING: We must know ourselves and where Jesus wants to transform us.
 - 2. Conviction: Many ppl in church know the Word but aren't led to the hard work of taking off the mask, knowing themselves, and letting Jesus transform/redeem their lives.
 - 3. We're all afraid of one another. Judgement. Weakness. Cost of actually being known.
 - C. And we are warned against this in Hebrews 3-4... As we study, **THREE MAIN POINTS...**
- III. **#1 - YOU CAN KNOW THE WORD AND NOT BELIEVE THE WORD.** Hebrews 3:12-4:2.
 - A. When the Bible talks about Salvation = Past, Future, and Present.
 - 1. Here in Hebrews, Salvation is described as rest. **GOSPEL** (Past, Future, Present).
 - B. But Hebrews is not written to unbelievers, it is written to the church! (v.12 - brothers)
 - 1. Warning the church: Make sure you don't have an unbelieving and hard heart.
 - 2. Ex. Korah's rebellion (Num. 16). People who went through motions but did not believe.
 - 3. You can hear the Word, go through motions, but not believe the Word.
 - C. A warning to us (no one is exempt from examine). Church Culture = **Stool** & **Medicine**.
- IV. **#2 - THE WORD OF GOD IS DESIGNED TO PENETRATE YOUR SOUL.** Hebrews 4:11-13.
 - A. All of us: contributed to brokenness of world & been broken/battered by sinful world.
 - 1. And the Word of God is designed to expose it, heal us, and lead us to rest. **Surgeon**.
 - B. **Here and struggle with anger**. Directed at family. Contributing to brokenness of world.
 - 1. But, the origin of all that anger is because that's how your parents dealt with you.
 - 2. Complexity of being hurt by others and perpetuating the cycle by hurting others.
 - 3. The Word of God is designed to expose it, heal it, and lead you to rest.
 - a) WORD = This is sin and must be dealt with. Does not minimize sin (ours or others).
 - b) Point you to the CROSS (past). Jesus has drawn near not face palmed you away.
 - c) Encourage you with your future in the Kingdom. Rid of all sin, hurt, and pain.
 - d) Present: Good work in you. Healing from your story. Transformation in your present.
 - C. I don't know what it is for you. We all need to be healed from our stories of living in a world that is racked with sin AND led to repentance of the ways we contribute to it.
- V. **#3 - JESUS IS THE PERFECT AND COMPASSIONATE PRACTITIONER.** Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - A. You know why we have a hard time letting the Word penetrate our souls? Why it is tempting to just do endless Bible Study, fill our heads w/ knowledge, and not allow the Word to do the hard work of healing us from our stories and convicting us of our sin?
 - 1. SHAME. Enemy's most effective weapon. Too embarrassed to admit weakness.
 - 2. We'd rather be an expert in all things surgery rather than the patient on the table.
 - 3. Like James and John, we want to save the world w/ Jesus rather than be saved by Him.
 - a) **Stool**: I want to be an expert of the Word but not transformed/confronted by it.
 - B. So, let me break the ice: Not one of us who doesn't doubt I struggle with unconfessed sin I insecure and is without need of encouragement I tempted to wear a mask to church.
 - 1. Jesus is the perfect and compassionate practitioner. He knows what it is like to struggle with all of that. Didn't succumb. **Understands weakness/temptation and he draws near.**
 - 2. Samaritan Woman. Jesus obliterates shame & draws near. **John 4:29**.

C. Leads us back to the **Mission of Grace Hill Church**. If we believe this. That Jesus is the perfect and compassionate practitioner. Then we must be a safe place to be known.

1. We must follow Jesus in how he draws near to the sinner and the broken hearted.

2. Must be the safest place on earth to take off your mask and find rest in the Gospel.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Grace Hill, our desire is to lead you into better knowing yourself and the specific ways that Jesus wants to transform you. Where he wants to grow you and heal you from your story.

1. The church today has a massive self-awareness problem.

2. Because we have historically been an unsafe place to be known.

B. You might ask how: well let me strongly encourage you to come back next week as we talk about the third leg in the stool where we will answer that question.

VII. Pray that God would lead us to be a place that is safe to be known and where we invite His Word to penetrate our souls in whatever way we need.