

Sermon Notes

Part 1: Lean In to Your Relationship With God

September 11th – 12th, 2021

- **Lean In: Intro**
- As we head into fall, it's time to make sure we don't stray off our mission: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out.
- I think we all know what it's like to just go through the motions.
 - o Tired, stressed out, don't care anymore...but stuck doing this...so give a half-hearted effort at best.
- But I think we all also know about being inspired, excited, full of anticipation. That's when we lean in!
 - o Let's lean in to knowing God, growing in our faith, and making a difference in this world.
- Don't say yes to everything, **PRIORITIZE!**
 - o Perhaps there was a good lesson with Covid: We are doing too much and we need to slow down.
 - o If we want to succeed at that, it means we need to only do the most important things.
 - Life balance isn't about disengaging, it's about engaging in life strategically!
 - o What is the person of faith's highest priority? What did Jesus say? **Mark 12:28-31**
- **This Week: Lean In to Your Relationship with God**
- How do we lean in to our relationship with God?
 - o Let me give you two steps: 1) Get to know God, 2) Let God get to know you.
- 1) Get to know God. 6 words/descriptions: Creator, LORD, Judge, Savior, Advocate, Friend.
 - o God as your creator and your Lord.
 - **Genesis 1:1-3.** God is creator of the universe, of the world, and of you.
 - **Psalm 8:1.** LORD vs Lord: Jehovah vs master. Hence, **Luke 6:46.**
 - o God as Judge and Savior.
 - Let's talk a little about the wrath of God and the love of God.
 - God's wrath is clear. From the flood, to the exile, to Hell itself.
 - o We are not immune to God's wrath. **Luke 17:1-2.**
 - God's love is also clear. From Adam naming the animals, to the cross itself.
 - o We are not immune to the love of God. **John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:8-9.**
 - How do we reconcile the wrath and love of God? God as Judge and Savior??
 - They are two sides of the same coin: that life is a sacred thing given by God.
 - Paradox of the millstone: We are all both victims and sinners, so now what??
 - The wrath of God and the love of God come into conflict which is resolved at the cross.
 - Because of the love of God for us all, Jesus satisfied the wrath of God against us all by taking the punishment for us all at the cross.
 - The debt must be paid for justice to be done. But Jesus paid it for us because of His love for us. Do not underestimate the price Jesus paid.
 - We call this Redemption: The wages of sin is death, but Jesus paid it all!
 - o God as Advocate and Friend.
 - **John 14:26, 16:13.** The Holy Spirit in us as our guide, teacher and advocate.
 - **John 15:12-15.** Jesus, friend of sinners. Our friend.
 - o Get to know God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Creator, Lord, Judge, Savior, Advocate, Friend.
- 2) Let God get to know you.
 - o In any meaningful relationship you must open yourself up.
 - Don't pretend, ignore, assume, beg, or try to manipulate God.
 - Rather, honestly open up your heart so you can pray, worship, and receive.
 - o Strange verse: **Galatians 4:8-9.**
 - Talk to Him. Tell Him things you don't tell anyone else. Go there with God.
- First things first, how do you start a relationship with God?
 - o Jesus is our Savior. Saviors save. Let Jesus save you: believe, confess, receive, live a new life.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.