

Jesus Makes It Safe...To Wrestle with Belief

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Genesis 2; John 5:39-40; Matthew 11

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

All of us live as though certainty is our identity

When our beliefs are confirmed, we can feel pleasure. When we hear beliefs that threaten us, we can feel anger.

*Has this been true in your experience? How has your identity been tested based on your beliefs?

*Does the church seem like a safe place to struggle with faith?

Read and discuss Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:5 (ESV)

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

*What are these passages saying to you?

*What are your thoughts on why God gave this command and the serpent's explanation?

The sin that separated us from God was idolatry. Centering our identity around something instead of Someone

Certainty of belief can feel the void of our God shaped hole.

*What is the difference between holding tightly to your beliefs and building your identity upon the certainty of your beliefs?

*Can you think of a time that your beliefs weren't wrong, but the way you believed something was? Has a belief become idolatry?

Our faith rests not in a book or a set of beliefs, but in a person and an event

It is the person of Jesus Christ and how his crucifixion and resurrection offers us LIFE.

*What happens when our faith is based on beliefs?

Read and discuss Matthew 11:2-6 (NTE)

² Meanwhile, John, who was in prison, heard about these messianic goings-on. He sent word through his followers.

³ "Are you the one who is coming?" he asked. "Or should we be looking for someone else?"

⁴ "Go and tell John", replied Jesus, "what you've seen and heard. ⁵ Blind people are seeing! Lame people are walking! People with virulent skin diseases are being cleansed! Deaf people can hear again! The dead are being raised to life! And – the poor are hearing the good news! ⁶ And God bless you if you're not upset by what I'm doing."

*What is this passage saying to you about Jesus does with those who doubt?

We take our doubts about Jesus, to Jesus

Church ought to be the safest place to wrestle with our faith.

*What is the cost of not sharing your wrestling?

*How has Jesus shown you it's safe to wrestle? The church?

*What wrestlings can you take to Jesus in your life right now?