

the IRRELIGIOUS LIFE

experiencing the inside-out spirituality of Jesus

Week 12: *THE END OF THE BEGINNING*

INTRODUCTION – The Respirator Of Religion

Because it does the thinking for you, religion facilitates and promotes spiritual _____.

JESUS SCENE – Washing Feet, Then & Now

John 13:1-20

1. *God offers us a cleansing spiritual bath (e.g., baptism).*
Titus 3:5 (CEV): He saved us because of his mercy, and not because of any good things that we have done. God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning. (Also see John 15:3)
2. *We still need ongoing cleansing to enjoy full intimacy with God.*
1 John 1:9 (NRSV): If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
3. *We can play a part in helping each other stay clean.*
2 Corinthians 7:1 (NRSV): Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.
James 5:16 (NLT): Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.
4. *Serving others is the “full extent” of God’s love living through us.*
John 15:13 (NASB): Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE #12 – Serving

Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 9:19; Colossians 3:23-24;
Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:1-8

NEXT STEP...

- a) Baptism
- b) Home Church
- c) Volunteering
- d) _____

CONCLUSION – The Most Important Part Of This Series

Matthew 12:20 / Isaiah 42:1-4

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Think back over this entire 12 week series. What week or topic was most meaningful to you? Why?
2. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, including our main text, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read about the attitude of Christ that should also be ours in **Philippians 2:1-11**.
 - a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b) In what ways do **verses 3-4** reflect a counter-cultural attitude? (Discuss some specific examples of this contrast between the way of Christ and the way of culture.)
 - c) Notice that Jesus’ attitude in **verses 6-7** the reverse of Adam and Eve’s attitude in **Genesis 3:1-7**, who were in the image and likeness of God, but grasped for more and lost everything. Talk about some of the implications of Jesus being a kind of “reset” button for the human story. (Also see **Romans 5:12-19**.)

SO WHAT?...

4. Take another look at the 4 points listed in the “Jesus Scene” section of the notes. What point best describes where you need to take your next step in your spiritual development? Pray for each other concerning this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 9 / 16, 2006