



WEEK 3- MATTERS OF THE HEART

Have you heard of David Livingstone? David Livingstone was a famous medical missionary that was born in Scotland in the early 1800s. He tried to be a preacher but was horrible at it. Someone suggested he become a doctor, which he did. Imagine that- becoming a doctor was the back up plan in case he couldn't handle being a pastor. Ahh..those were the days.

David had a huge burden to share the gospel, so he went to Africa where he preached about the grace available in Jesus, and he tried to abolish the slave trade there. Several decades later he got very sick and died. The Africans he had served were so loyal to him that they carried his body 1000 miles back to the coast so it could be shipped back to England for burial. And his body was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey. But the people around him did something very peculiar...see, before they carried his body away they cut it open and removed his heart. they placed it in a tin can and buried it in that very spot under a tree, where a memorial still stands to this day. For they said, "his body belongs to England, but his heart will always be in Africa."

I wonder what someone might say of us today? "Here lies Bob. Though his body may be here, his heart really belongs to fantasy football." What are the things that your heart is passionate about? What do you treasure? Is it worth it?

Jesus said that whatever it is that we treasure, our heart will be there. Our passions, our emotions, our energy, our effort...they will center around and be loyal to the thing(s) that we treasure most. We must make sure that our treasure is noble and worth it.

"There is treasure buried in the field of every one of our days, even the bleakest or dullest, and it is our business, as we journey, to keep our eyes peeled for it."

Frederick Buechner

ICEBREAKER:

(STORY CARDS)

Which picture best describes your heart right now?
(your emotions, passions, or things you care about most deeply)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:19-21

1. When you hear Jesus say, "Don't store up treasures on earth," what's the first thing that comes to mind?
2. If someone looked at your calendar and at your bank statements and knew nothing else about you, what would they conclude about what is most important to you?
3. There are two commands here - stop doing one thing and start doing another. They both are required. What is something you need to stop treasuring and something you need to start stockpiling? (These could be tangible or intangible things)
4. Do you think you tend to lead more with your head (emotions/passions) or your heart (reason/logic)?
5. How these parts of our nature be helpful or a hindering?
6. Can you think of a time when you made an important decision based solely on how you felt about it? How did that go?
7. What about the reverse? Has there been a time when you weighed the options and made a choice, believing it was best, even if it wasn't what you felt like doing at the time? How did that go?
8. Re-Cap the David Livingstone Story (above.) Where do you want your heart to be buried? (When all is said and done, what do you want to be known to have been passionate about?)

