

Bible Study – Introducing ‘Vice to Virtue’

PRAYER AND PRAISE NIGHT – Weds, 2nd Sept 7:30-8:30 (Come as a Small Group!)

For Starters

- “Genuine change be both attractive and daunting” Discuss.

Read John 5:1-9

1. How does this story show us the basic pattern of Jesus bringing people to wholeness?
2. “A vice is a settled habit which bends us away from loving God and others; a virtue is a Spirit-formed habit which increasingly enables us to love them well.”
 - Can you think of examples that illustrate this?
3. “Christianity is not about self-improvement”. Do you agree? And if not, then what is it about?
4. What might it look like to have Jesus as Saviour but not Lord?
5. Can you identify a repeated pattern which has cut a ‘groove’ in your life requiring work? What right desires might be underneath it? (E.g. Security, Control, significance, comfort ...)
6. Where do you most need to remember that Jesus sees and knows you completely (in your brokenness) – and yet comes towards you with grace rather than condemnation?
7. How does our future hope – the renewal of all things and becoming fully like Christ – give us motivation for the slow work of character formation now?
8. What comfort can we draw from Philippians 2:12-13 and 1:5-6 as we move forward?

9. During this series, as we think about putting off old vices and working at Christlike virtues what are some things that could help or hinder our Small Group experience?

A private challenge:

- Spend some time this week bringing one or two areas of sin (vices) in your life honestly to Jesus in prayer rather than hiding, excusing or minimising them.

Take home message:

- Jesus sees us in our brokenness, offers the wholeness we cannot achieve for ourselves, and calls us to walk in the new life he gives and enables.

A suggested prayer:

- Lord Jesus, you see us completely and yet you still draw near to us with grace. Show us the grooves in our character that distort our love. Thank you that we do not have to make ourselves whole. By your Spirit, help us to leave old patterns behind and practise the life of the new creation. Make us more like you. Amen.