



Getting By Or Getting Real?

Exodus 34:29-35

Week of Sept. 29, 2019

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Objective of this study: To understand the difference between 'getting by' in the 'Christianese' version of yourself, and 'getting real' with Jesus and in the life he is calling you to.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

Worship (5 – 10 minutes)

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for hearing his word. After the silence, have someone read **Psalm 63:1-8** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything "jump out at you"?**

Welcome question

Have you ever spotted something fake?

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

Word/Work (60-90 minutes)

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read **Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-7; Matthew 5:14-16**.
3. As background to today's study, read the following **sermon quotes**:

"Jesus can and will make real changes in our lives, if we let him."

"Every one of us here has a story. Everyone has or will have to wrestle with how you see Jesus, and for each one of us, there will be a day when we have to decide who Jesus is personally, and how we are going to let Him impact and shape our lives."

"There is a difference between those who are merely getting by - who copy, imitate, or fake it, based on what the appropriate cultural thing to do - AND those who are "real" or authentic about who and what they believe and do. This is a real challenge in the church because let's be honest, it's not that hard to learn the right Christianese words and to imitate appropriate Christian behaviors."

4. Can you relate to this concept of needing to transition from speaking 'Christianese' and imitating Christian behaviors, to genuinely meeting with Jesus and letting him change your life? How?

5. Have you had to wrestle with how you see Jesus? How?
6. More **Sermon quotes**:

“There is this amazing thing that happens when we have a genuine interaction with the Risen Savior Jesus Christ. When we let him open up our hearts and when we take personal interest into the mission that Jesus is calling us to.”

“From ‘glory to glory.’ In other words, this change in our lives takes place bit by bit, little by little, step by step. We don’t usually change instantaneously overnight. But instead it’s a gradual change that takes place as we continue to walk close to God all the days of our lives. This is an important part of our relationship with Jesus, learning to walk with him little by little.”

7. What are some ways Jesus has become more real to you, or some experiences that Jesus has used to help you become more real?
8. How have you experienced this, walking with Jesus step by step, growing little by little?
9. **Sermon quote**:

“Do you know the easiest way to tell the difference between ‘pseudo’ and real diamonds? Real diamonds can cut glass. The reality of true diamonds is seen in the mark they make. So also, our genuine, real faith, the reality of our walk with Christ, is shown in the mark that we make.”

10. Is there someone whose genuine walk with Jesus has left a mark on your life?
11. Read **Matthew 5:14-16**.
12. What does this passage have to do with being real?
13. **Sermon quote**: “My hope for today is simply to encourage you to seek out moments in your life where you can experience the glory of God for yourself and that you will live your lives in a way that reflects that glorious light to those around you.”
14. Discuss the above quote.
15. Close by having someone read aloud a passage or quote that was significant to the group today. Respond in worship to God.

Prayer:

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise Jesus for how he leads us to become more real.** Here are some things you can pray about for the church:
 - A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.
 - B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus.
 - C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.
 - D. **Our missionary of the week: Rod and Donna Black.** (Check out the church [website](#) for how to pray for them.)
 - E. Local church: **Ocean Crest Salvation Army Church**

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