



MISSION CREEK

Alliance Church

Circle Questions for the week of January 8-14, 2023

1. When you think of King Harrod from Jesus's time, what kind of man do you think of and what would be some of his characteristics?
 - He accomplished many things, yet by the end of his life he seems to have gone a bit mad (read Matt. 2:16)
2. When you think of Jesus, what are some of his notable characteristics?

James took time to do a comparison of these two men and how they responded/reacted to the 3 temptations Jesus faced when he was in the desert for 40 days.

3. Read Luke 4:1-13 together and note the areas of temptation.
4. James would suggest there are 3 and compares "The Harrod way" and "The Jesus way" with these temptations. Revisit this and discuss together the different responses to these temptations (The Harrod way and the Jesus way):
 - Appetite
 - Approval
 - Ambition

What can we learn from this comparison?

James suggests these comparisons:

- Appetite: Harrod wanted to be king and establish his importance forever – he made things bigger and better even if it meant destruction to others/Jesus says man doesn't live by bread alone. *When we fill our lives with Jesus, we don't have the need to grasp at filling unsatisfying hunger.
 - Approval: Harrod grasped at remaining great and being remembered/Jesus didn't need to seek approval because he knew he was fully loved and accepted by Father. When we know this, we can freely serve instead of seek approval
 - Ambition: The temptation was to take a shortcut to become great. Harrod spared himself no luxury to prove his greatness/ Jesus said he would only do the will of the Father. His ambition was God's glory, not his own.
5. James talked about the things he had learned from people in his past – the heritage they passed down, like "bigger isn't always better and success is displayed in faithful obedience" etc. How are you inspiring others with "The Jesus way/response to life and temptation?"
 6. What are the results of "The Harrod way" – seeking appetite, approval, and ambition? What are the results of doing it "The Jesus way"?

MCA Church Circles

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