

GOD NEVER SAID THAT

WEEK 1
WHAT I DO IN PRIVATE
DOESN'T HURT ANYONE
MICHAEL KAST

I can do what I want as long as it doesn't **hurt anyone**.

Why doesn't this mindset work?

What's on the inside always comes out.

"For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all." *Luke 8:17*

God sees it all.

"It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. Among the plunder I saw a beautiful robe from Babylon, 200 silver coins and a bar of gold weighing more than a pound. I wanted them so much that I took them. They are hidden in the ground beneath my tent, with silver buried deeper than the rest." *Joshua 7:20-21*

So Joshua sent some men to make a search. They ran to the tent and found the stolen goods hidden there, just as Achan had said, with silver buried beneath the rest. They took the things from the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites. Then they laid them on the ground in the presence of the Lord.

Joshua 7:22-23

Then Joshua said to Achan "Why have you brought trouble on us? The Lord will now bring trouble on you." And all the Israelites stoned Achan and his family and burned their bodies. They piled a great heap of stones over Achan, which remains to this day. That is why the place has been called Valley of Trouble ever since. So the Lord was no longer angry. *Joshua 7:25-26*

It puts me at the center of my world.

For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. **So live as people of light!** For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. **Carefully determine** what pleases the Lord. **Take no part** in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for **the light makes everything visible**. *Ephesians 5:8-14*

How can I eliminate this thinking?

Pursue God.

Run from darkness.

Step into the light.

One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in September 2018 during our next 10-week group semester. Small group registration opens August 12. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

Devotionals

Imagine a parent telling his or her child to go clean their room. The kid responds, "I memorized what you said! You said go clean your room." The perplexed parent would look at the child rather frustrated and probably say, "No, go actually clean your room." This is the same thing we often do with God. God desires us to take action, not merely memorize what the Bible says. When we follow Jesus with our actions and not merely our intentions we end up in His presence while experiencing His intimacy, peace, joy, love, and grace. This week, focus on the steps you can take to follow Jesus in action, not just intentions. James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Sunday, July 8 – Acts 26:1-32

When you hear the word justice, what comes to mind? What is your definition of justice? What do you think God's definition of justice is? Do you think Paul made a mistake in appealing to Caesar, or do you think this was God's plan all along?

Monday, July 9 – Acts 27:1-20

This life can be difficult and bring challenging seasons in life. Can you think of a time in life that was considered a tough or "stormy" season? How did you react to the hard times? In what ways did you grow closer to God? Additional scriptural references regarding challenging times can be found in Psalm 138:7, John 16:33, and 1 Peter 4:12-13.

Tuesday, July 10 – Acts 27:21-44

By serving others, we serve God. When was the last time you were able to support a friend or family member through a tough season? In what ways did you support that person? Who could use your help this week and how can you serve them?

Wednesday, July 11 – Acts 28:1-31

God has a unique plan for each one of us (Jeremiah 29:11). What do you believe your purpose on earth is? Think of a time you took credit for something you didn't do. Why did you take credit for it? How can we give credit and glory to God where it is rightfully his?

Thursday, July 12 – Romans 1:1-17

Community is an important part of God's design for us here on earth. How would you describe the community you are in? In what ways is your community pushing you towards God or away from God? What next steps do you need to put in place to surround yourself with other Christian believers?

Friday, July 13 – Romans 1:18-32

The Bible has a lot to say about the powerful force of sin in our lives. Why do you think God takes sin so seriously? Some biblical insight can be found in Psalm 45:6-7, Romans 6:23, and 1 Peter 3:18. How is sin harmful to us? What can we do to stay away from sin in our lives?

Saturday, July 14 – Romans 2:1-24

How do you think God wants us to live out the gospel? Additional scriptural support can be found in Matthew 28:19-20. How much of today did I use as God intended? How can you take what you know about God, and use it to introduce him to others?