

5. How would you explain blasphemy against the Holy Spirit to someone who fears they may have committed the unforgivable sin?

6. What robs us of the beauty that every sin can be forgiven?

7. Read the definition Eugene Peterson gives for moralism. Why is it so easy for us to find solace in moralism over a deeper relationship with God?

8. As a follower of Jesus, how will you actively pursue producing good fruit in your life?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Responding to Jesus

"Growing Deeper with God"

Matthew 12:22-37

How Can we Know God in a Deeper Way?

1. Through his _____.

Jesus had a living and active relationship with God. He was aware of the _____ of the Spirit in everyday life.

There were no powerful words or speeches, just powerful _____. Jesus worked with the people he was with in the daily ordinariness of his life. He used what was in front of him to display God's glory.

Jesus gives us an inside look into the Spiritual realm:

- Satan is _____.
- Satan has a _____.
- His kingdom has _____.
- Jesus is ushering in a new _____ on enemy territory.

2. Through his _____.

The unforgivable sin: attributing the _____ of God to Satan.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.

Because of the unforgivable sin, we miss the beauty of the rest of these verses: that every _____ can be forgiven.

3. Through our _____.

"Moralism works from the outside: it imposes right behavior on oneself or others. There is no freedom in it and no joy. Moralism is a moral grid that is set on life. Up against this grid, I can see exactly where I fit or don't fit, where you fit or don't fit, and what actions are right and which are wrong. And once I know that, what else is there? I either do it or don't. And you either do it or don't. Simple." (Eugene Peterson)

Identify bad fruit and match it with a discipline for a deeper knowledge of God:

- Disciplines of _____ and rest.
- Disciplines of God's _____.
- Disciplines of deep _____.

Resources:

Comer, John Mark. 2024. Practicing the Way.
Foster, Richard. 2018. Celebration of Discipline.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Describe a time when you witnessed what seemed like a seemingly straightforward event that was interpreted differently by others.
3. Read Matthew 12:22-37. In your opinion, why do you think the Pharisees were so resistant to accepting Jesus's authority and power?
4. How might we blind ourselves to the work of the Spirit through our control, checklists, or expectations?