

WEEK 7 DAY 4

MAIN POINT:

If you go looking for healing or help in the wrong places, you end up hurt. The only place recovery, life, and peace can be found is in actively trusting Jesus.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Then [the crowds following Jesus] said to him, ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’”

(John 6:28-29)

THE HARD WORK OF THE GOSPEL: BELIEF

PRAYER: Jesus, help me to see that you came to bring peace. Help me to believe and trust what is true about you.

“I *have* to do something. Things are out of control. Why can’t I just get it together?” There are so many moments in life that feel out of control. It’s easy to think that if you just had a better handle on your circumstances, that pain would go away, or you could avoid unpleasant experiences. Why doesn’t God just tell you what to do?

People in Jesus time wondered the same things. Crowds saw Jesus healing the sick. They saw him feed thousands with five loaves, two fish, and prayer. They thought, “This is the guy we’ve been waiting for! He is doing the work of God!” And, the crowds asked Jesus, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”

They wanted to know how to take control of their circumstances, how they could heal their sicknesses, and fill their stomachs. Jesus responded, “this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” (John 6:29) Believe in Jesus? It is probably not what they wanted to hear; and if you are being honest, there are days you probably don’t want to hear it either.

Some people want something to *do* to get life together: just quit this, just start that, etc. Other people just want God to make problems go away regardless if they ever choose to trust and obey his word: why do this, or what is the point of doing that? Etc. They want control of a trouble-free life rather than trusting Christ and surrendering control of life to God regardless of circumstances.

Life is exhausting and unmanageable until you realize that the love, security, peace, and significance you desperately want is already available to you (not because of anything you do, or because you get it together). Jesus’ life of perfect obedience is enough. Trusting and following him, on the good and bad days, is doing the hard work of the gospel. The peace that comes from trusting God is better than control, because it doesn’t depend on you, others, or a change in circumstances. Eternal peace comes from above.

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APPLICATION: Think of one area of your life that you’ve been trying to control. Then, write out a prayer asking God to take control of that issue. Ask God for courage and faith to trust and obey his will as instructed by his word. Then pray that he would bless you with peace that surpasses understanding regardless of the outcome.