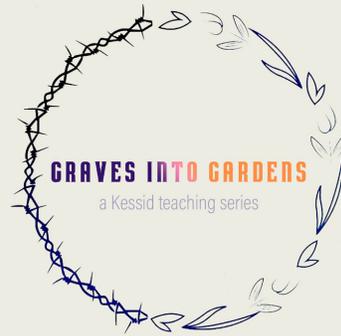


“THE PLACE WHERE HOPE LIVES”

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Our Graves Into Gardens series is about, “Not just surviving difficult times but thriving.”

Whenever I’m working with people around Habit Breaking, or Addictions, Anger, Resentments, Fears, eventually the conversation around “Loyalty” has to be had...

- “People wanting to break free from damaging behaviors are, at a certain level, trying to courageously change their life’s loyalties.”

The problem is that ‘Core Loyalties’ are not an easy thing to change...

- At the time of Jesus, there were 613 commandments.
- People were dedicated to these laws... each and every one! Their whole World revolved around them!
- But, Isaiah when prophesying the coming of Christ says...

(Vs) Isaiah 43:19 – “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

- This is why Jesus Christ was so controversial when he showed up!
- He was that ‘New Thing!’ – He was a challenge to those old Core Loyalties!

Some of us are living our lives like this still today...

- Our whole World revolving around Old Misplaced Loyalties...
- Forgetting that, “God has always been, is doing, and always will continue to do, New Things.”
- ...and often those ‘New Things’ are built around God shifting our loyalties.

A man named Job...

(Vs) Job 1:20-21 – “Then Job arose and tore his robe...”

- Job did what people did in those days when they were in mourning.
- He tore his robe, shaved his head and fell to the ground.
- He complained and cried out to God. He called out to his source.

(Vs) Job 1:22 - "In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."

- In spite of it all... Job remained loyal!

"Loyalty to God cannot help but create spaces in which people can sit in communal relationship with both Him and each other."

- What Loyalties are claiming you?
- What Loyalties are you claiming?
- Do your answers proclaim Christ as your highest loyalty?

Let me explain it differently...

(Vs) Hosea 6:6 NASB - "For I delight in loyalty (Steadfast Love) rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

- So, according to the Bible... "All Faithful followers of Christ are supposed to seek to be loyal to God through their love."
- The idea being that God provides, "The Way" and "The Means," we just have to decide whether we want to "Jump In."
- "Stop building over and around. Just be washed away in me."

You can clearly see this illustrated in Job's story...

(Vs) Job 1:20 - "Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped."

- 'Worship' in Hebrew is "SHACHAH"
- In its Semitic root, it means 'swimming'...

"True Worship is Swimming in God's Love."

- Proclaiming that even when the everyday waters of life's trials surround you, the Love of God is an even greater New and Never-ending Flood!!!
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"What if the thing you are most loyal to right now is more a bridge to where YOU want to go instead of a river flowing where GOD already is?"