

June 11, 2023

In Our Time
The Cry of the Heart

The Scripture: Ezekiel 36:24-32

Big Idea: Revival always starts with revived people. God promises life to individual hearts, but new hearts require new practices. We must “set ourselves apart”, living as holy contradictions, to be people of power and presence; to be a place where God can dwell fully and completely.

The Challenge: God does not want a domain to dominate; He wants a people to partner with. He desires people who will not just contend for revival, but will prepare their hearts for it. Doing so requires that we resist idols to cultivate loyalty, resist apathy to cultivate hunger, and resist comfort to cultivate sacrifice.

Danielle’s Prayer for this Message: My prayer is that the Spirit would shape us and form us into a beautiful contradiction; radically dissimilar to the world but so compelling to it. In this way, not only are we experiencing revival in our own lives, but we begin to participate in the renewal of all things.

Questions for Discussion:

God Promises Life to Individual Hearts:

1. God’s promise to the Israelites in Ezekiel 36:24-32 is God’s promise to us. What part of the passage resonates most with you in this current season of life?
2. In Ezekiel 36:26, God promises to remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. What does this mean to you? How have you experienced this in your own life?

New Hearts Need New Practices:

3. We have been given new hearts, but we continue to live old lifestyles. In what ways do you think our lives are formed more by the world than by the Spirit of God?

Living as Holy Contradictions:

4. What does it mean to live as a “holy contradiction”?
5. Resisting Idols and Cultivating Loyalty:
 - a. We can identify the idols of our hearts by asking ourselves this question: “Life only has meaning, and I only have worth when _____.” How would you fill in the blank?
 - b. What is one way that you cultivate loyalty to God?
6. Resisting Apathy and Cultivating Hunger:
 - a. What does it mean to be “hungry for God”?
 - b. What things take the edge off your hunger?
 - c. What is one way you are cultivating your hunger for God?
7. Resisting Comfort and Cultivating Sacrifice:
 - a. Sacrifice requires that we look beyond ourselves into the hearts of others, as well as the church. What ways are you inclined to choose comfort over sacrifice?
 - b. What is one way that you cultivate sacrifice in your own life? What would it look like if our church lived sacrificially?

Application:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, “when Christ calls a man, He bids him “come and die”, but He does so because He knows we experience life on the other side of death. Jesus calls us to die to idols, apathy, and comfort so He can make us people of presence and power. What is one way God is calling you to do so in this season? Pray that God would grant you everything you need to do so.