

Blue Like Jazz by Donald Miller - Nonreligious thoughts on Christian spirituality

Review

Ok before we get started lets review.

- What did we talk about last week?

What we want to do this week is to dig deeper into this idea of allowing Jesus to rescue us. To get us started, let's wrestle with the following questions:

- What is an area of your life do you enjoy excelling at? (This could be anything; school, a hobby, relationships, sports, etc) Why?
- How do you feel when you fail at or fall short in that area of your life?

Discussion

So that is what this chapter is going to be dealing with: how do we respond to failure. Let's read the first two sections. In these sections you will read about the struggles of two men. As you read be looking for:

1. What each of their struggles are AND
2. What the *difference between their struggles is*

Read 79-83

- What was each of the men's struggles? How would you describe the difference between those two struggles?
- Which of the men do you more identify with? Why?
- How do each of the men respond to failure? How do you respond to failure?
- These two sections are helpful in allowing us to see that, like the author and Rick, we all fail in different ways and that we don't always respond well to failure. Let's see what solutions he offers to this predicament we all find ourselves in. Read the last three sections to the end of the chapter. Be looking for what solution the author suggests for our predicament of failure.

Read 83-86

- The author says that he loves to give charity but he doesn't want to be charity. He says that this is why he has so much trouble with grace. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
- How do you identify with having resistance to charity and grace? In what areas do you feel like you consistently need grace from others around you?
- Between this chapter and the last, we have been hovering around the idea of grace, saved and faith. Let's look at a verse from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians to see the relationship between these three idea.

Read Ephesians 2:8,9 below

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- *In non-spiritual terms*, how would you define each of these words (grace, saved, faith)?
- *Ok, now in spiritual terms*, what is the grace you get? What are you saved from? What is your faith in?
- Ok let's talk about this a little more personally.

Apply

- Whether you are a believer or non-believer, we all experience resisting God's grace. What are ways you are resistant to God's grace in your life?
- How might your life look different if you were to receive God's grace?