

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

Review

Ok before we get started lets review.

- What have we talked about so far?

Launch

This week to continue our conversation about Jesus we are taking a look at ourselves. To get us started, let's wrestle with the following question:

- Do you think man is essentially good or bad? Why or why not?

Discussion

Read 13-14

- What in life seems to strike you as most broken, discomforting, bad or frightening in the world?
- So brokenness is obviously pervasive in our world. Let's see what else the author has to say about brokenness.

Read 15-18

- The author says, "I do buy the idea that we are flawed, that there is something in us that is broken. I think it is easier to do bad things than good things. And there is something in that basic fact, some little clue to the meaning of the universe." Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- Let's read the next section and see what the author has to say about how we experience brokenness personally.

Read 18-23

- On page 20 the author says, "I think every conscious person, every person who is awake to the functioning principles within his reality, has a moment where he stops blaming the problems in the world on group think, on humanity and authority, and starts to face himself... I am the problem."

In relation to this quote how do you identify with the author?

- How willing do you think the average person is to being honest about their brokenness? Why?
- So this is a challenging reality, we all have a quality of brokenness and at the same time a resistance to acknowledging our brokenness. Let's look at a few verses from the bible that address this issue.

Read 1 John 1:7-9

- *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- What do we learn about man from this passage?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- If God faithfully forgives our sin when we confess it to him, how does it change the way we live on a daily basis?

Apply

- To finish up our time we want to spend some time putting this reality into practice. What we are going to do is practice confession. Pair up with one other person. Share one thing that you have been struggling with recently. It doesn't have to be the worst thing you struggle with; just one thing. After you share. Pray for each other. *Specifically thank God for forgiving you for what you both shared. Pray that God would help both to grow and change in that areas you shared.*