



7-2-17 Sermon Discussion Guide

"Sovereignty - Is God Really in control?"



Context

Throughout this summer we are talking about words and ideas that we often hear in church but rarely define. This summer provides a chance to hit "pause" and reflect upon these ideas, their importance, and their impact upon life. This series began by asking the question, "What is theology?" After discussing the Trinity, how God reveals himself to us, how God created the world, and how sin impacts our relationship with God. So if God created all things, the inevitable question becomes: Is God in control of all things?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

For some people, it feels like good news to believe that God is in control of all things. For others, this is very discouraging news. What evidence do you see in the world around you that points to a God who is in control? What evidence in the world makes you question this idea?

Discussing the Text – Matthew 6:25-34, Romans 8:28-39

1. In Matthew 6:25, Jesus says not to worry about our lives. Does this mean that we sin every time we worry?
2. Verse 26 says that God feeds the birds of the air. Does this mean that God is responsible for the how the plants, animals, and weather all interact? Could we extrapolate that God is responsible for natural disasters?
3. What do you think Jesus means in verse 33 when he commands us to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness?"
4. Romans 8:28 says that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. Do you think this means that God plans all events for our good, or that God can somehow bring about our good from all situations?
5. Verse 28 says that God works for the good of those who love him. What is this "good" that God is working for? Who is included in "those who love him?"
6. Do verses 29 and 30 imply that God chose some people to be saved and others not?

So what?

1. Jesus says, "Can any one of you add a single hour to your life by worrying?" How does worrying negatively impact your life? How can you worry less? What's at stake if you don't?
2. If God is controlling even the everyday events of nature, how is God controlling your life?
3. What does it mean that God is "for you" as it says in Romans 8:31?
4. If God has chosen us, called us, and justified us, is there anything we can do to lose our salvation?
5. How have you conquered suffering in your life through the help of Jesus?
6. If nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, are we a part of that creation? Can we separate ourselves?
7. If God controls all things, does that make God the author of evil and suffering? Does God make the car driver crash into the motorcyclist?
8. If God controls all things, can we change God's mind through prayer?

Prayer

Share something you for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Invite the group to thank God for something outside of their control this week.