

10/8/23

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FB 2

Sermon – INSANITY! (Break the Cycle week 2)

Scripture – Luke 13:6-9, 2nd Peter 2, Mathew 7:6

Main Message – Become a new thing, a new creation, have a life God wants for you!

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. That little piece of wisdom is accredited to Einstein. Its true more often than it is not true, but people still do it all the time. At New Years, you will hear people, with all good intentions want to lose weight, or get in shape, and especially after the Holidays. The gyms are packed and about the time Valentines day rolls around, 99% of folks won't return any longer. Hey, I've been one of them. The sad thing is that next year many will make the same commitment. They KNOW they need to change, but they fall back into the same old routine. Part of the reason folks do this is because they don't actually know how to do anything different and therefore get the same ole' results. It's the same for drug users. It's the same for those who steal from others. It is the human condition. People keep returning to destructive behaviors and expect something different. These destructive behaviors lead to self-destruction. It's a slow type of suicide.

Spiritually speaking it is the same thing. People can hear the Gospel, appreciate it, like it, see its value, give it a go, then life happens, they get distracted, and then they revert back to where they once were. Things get hard, they return back to God/Church and they last a bit, and then they fade away. Sometimes those who hear the Gospel and revert back actually don't know how to do anything different. Unlike a drug user who may overdose and die in the flesh, the person who never actually perseveres and continues growing is in dire circumstances and is risking death of the spirit. Let's hear what Jesus says. **Read Luke 13:6-9.**

I don't want anyone to be deceived by their own understanding of things. It's not my parable. Jesus is telling us directly, there had better be some fruit or it's worthless. Perseverance and growth are of paramount importance. The Gospel is not, Jesus died for you sins, so go and do the same thing you've always done. That is according to Einstein, insanity. According to Jesus, one day the time will run out and it will be too late. Peter actually tells us the situation that happens to everyone who keeps going back to the same old ways in **2 Peter 2.**

The reality of the situation is that the temptations of the world are too strong for us all without the Holy Spirit as a part of our lives. Eventually, if people keep going back to the same old way, never doing anything new, eventually they will be so encumbered by sin and shame that they may never escape it. Shame keeps people away because they don't want us to see it. What they fail to realize is that God sees it. You can't hide from His Glory. We need to help people break the cycle. We need people to feel appreciated, comfortable, and disciple them towards true repentance. The world is too strong and unless you can break the insanity cycle their eternal souls are in jeopardy. The tough part is that after so many tries it can get to the point those individuals are hostile and Jesus says don't bother.

Read Mathew 7:6