



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

CROSSROADS CHURCH - 3 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO END THIRST

SOAP READING—March 23, 2010

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S: Mark 8:31-38

O: Jesus begins to reveal to the disciples what being the Messiah is going to mean. Right before this in verse 29, Peter and the other disciples figure out that Jesus was the Messiah. But they have a really clear picture of what Messiah's do. Dying is not part of being a Messiah. Peter is really wrestling. If Jesus says he is the Messiah, then he can't be going to die. If someone dies, it is proof positive that he wasn't the Messiah. Jesus nails the problem. He tells Peter that he is in line with the wrong side in the universe. Right now Peter is essentially agreeing with Satan (*In the temptation of Jesus story, Satan talks about making Jesus a big time ruler of the kingdoms of the world*). Jesus then describes what he and his disciples do. Essentially we all become traitors to the way the world works. Dying on a cross meant you had committed treason. So the followers of Jesus commit treason against the way the world uses influence and affluence (*as Phil keeps saying*). It is a sacrificial way to live and there is a price exacted from us. The systems we are a part of don't look kindly on traitors. But the systems we are a part of don't give life. They destroy creation, the human soul and our connections to each other and God. Peter and the disciples are being encouraged to see the world so differently.

A: As I think about the Ripple Effect, I wonder what it would mean for me to commit treason against the American Dream. What would it look like to live by another dream that makes very different demands? There will be a cost. Am I ready to pay that cost? I feel a little embarrassed to say that I have bought into the American dream to an uncomfortable degree. I am eager to have a very cozy retirement fund. I want to own my own house. I dream of having a convertible to drive someday. I want to travel all over the world and see as much as I can. There is nothing inherently wrong with any of those wishes. What's true though is that none of them have much to do with God making every messed up thing right. Those aren't things worth giving my life to. Those things won't draw me closer to God or to the people God is calling me to love. I may have to let go of those things in order to be able to be a disciple of Jesus.

P: Jesus, I just confess that committing treason against the American Dream feels scary. I know in my head that it will never satisfy me or make me the person that I am meant to be. But my heart feels convinced that that life sounds really good. Please God, be with me. Give me strength. Give me faith. Help me to believe that your kingdom is the only kingdom I want to be loyal to. Holy Spirit, make me a true follower of Jesus.