

SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

SAYS WHO?! AUGUSTINE...AND SO CHANGES EVERYTHING, Curt Brunk 1.17.01

Augustine – one of most intelligent persons ever

But that was not why people loved him, instead it was because he laid bare everything in his heart and mind in a way that helps us see our own

Confessions – his journey from the fleshly desires of youth, to something more noble which turned out to be false, to the true God and Christ our Savior

City of God – comforting citizens of the empire as it falls by decoupling the state and religion

Sets the Church free to soar in harmonic resonance with God and God alone

“City of God” = those who love God more than themselves and so do everything they can to truly follow Him

“City of Man” = those who love themselves more than God and so follow their own desires

This parallels the church “visible” and “invisible”

“Visible” = what you can see, the people who come, the ones who are in authority

“Invisible” = the ones who are actually resonating and responding to the song – heart’s cry – of God

Haiti – known as hell way before latest tragedy

Who was picking up God’s heart’s cry back then, before world’s attention focused on it?

Overwhelmingly Christians – the invisible church, resonating with God’s heart

The church invisible is the best way to reveal God visibly

You will know them by their fruit, Mat 7:17-21

Other heart cries of God

Slavery

Church visible could sit in pews while treating human beings as animals

Martin Luther King – well after slavery officially abolished – African Americans still not officially

NEXT WEEK: Says Who?! The Keepers of the Faith

considered full persons...even by people sitting in pews

Slavery still rampant in world: Haitian boys enslaved by Dominicans to work in fields

Human Sex Trafficking, Clean Water, Rampant, systemic, endemic Poverty, etc. etc.

Right here on Eastside

Immigrants living 20 to a home, wanting to speak English, losing children to MTV culture. The fatherless, etc.

What is the particular God song that resonates in your heart?

Let even the smallest inclination, grow into something that provides protection, provision, shelter for others, Mat 13-31-32

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Augustine was one of the most outstanding intellectuals, and visible spokesmen of his day. How does that strike you to think of an era when Christian thought and dialogue was so prominent? Excluding partisan politics, what are the venues you know are available for talking about the "larger" ideas and implications of Christianity?

2. Augustine spoke about this idea of the "invisible church"- larger than our Bible study, larger than Lake Samm, larger than we might imagine... In what ways have you recently seen God’s Kingdom outside and beyond our own church meetings? Using Curt’s metaphor, where is it easiest for you to hear the "notes in the lower registers" being played?

3. Digging Deeper: What does Jesus say about the unique character of His invisible Kingdom in Matthew 13: 31- 46. How will we know that the King and His Kingdom are present according to these verses? What are the insights & responses to which Jesus challenges us?

4. In the larger "world church" perspective, to what "cello chords" do think the Holy Spirit might be directing us? For our Small Group, what would a response to this look like to these?

TODAY’S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus