

Who's Watching// Week 4 // SWITCHgroup Questions

Night 4 Teaching

“Spiritual Posing”

I have been speaking at camps and churches for a little while now and sometimes God gives you teachings and messages that you know aren't going to be very popular and this just might be one of them. The reason they don't tend to be popular is because they make people really evaluate where they are and they cut strait to the heart. In these teachings scriptures exposes what is and makes us really uncomfortable.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

I hope that what you hear from God's word tonight hits your head and stirs your heart.

Prayer (open ears, honest hearts)

If you have your bibles open them up to Matthew 23.

Matthew 23:1-5

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for men to see:

The word Pharisees comes from a Hebrew word that means separated. They looked a certain way they were looked up too, people respected them.

Matthew 23:27-28

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones

Poser

Who's Watching// Week 4 // SWITCHgroup Questions

and everything unclean. 28In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Catch what Jesus is saying, back in the day of a person stepped on a grave they became ceremonially unclean. So graves were painted to make them easily visible at night.

They appeared clean and beautiful on the outside, but they were dirty and rotten on the inside. Wow, how many of us can identify with that. Yet if someone were to see what Jesus sees and goes to the depths of our hearts they might find that we have become nothing but a **spiritual poser**. Someone who has posed in so many areas of their lives that it only makes sense that it landed in the most important one.

Come on now. Lets be real, for many our spiritual lives have become nothing more than a joke! Something we don't take very seriously and doesn't effect many areas of our lives other then what time things go down on Wednesday or Sunday.

Perhaps it hits you right where you are. You believe in God, you have accepted Jesus as your savior. You believe the bible is true, you want to do what is right but slowly and surely you **have lost what the heartbeat of Jesus** is and what He has called you and I to be.

Summer camp story with Michael Bleeker

Spiritually posing. They had forgotten what being a follower of Jesus was all about.

Matthew 22:37 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

The Pharisees and teachers of the law looked good and knew the scriptures, yet the true test of any believer is not how they look but rather how the love God and everyone around. I am not saying that is easy in fact I would say it will be the hardest thing in your life.

Poser

Who's Watching// Week 4 // SWITCHgroup Questions

Everyone can spot a poser, right? Someone pretending to be something they're not. But what about the poser in the mirror? Are we even aware of how often we betray who we really are? This series will call you out and invite you to drop the pose and become the authentic, real person God created you to be.

Walk Away Point: Drop the spiritual pose, God is after your heart.

Leaders: Choose questions from these suggestions to help your group process, personalize, and take action on this week's message. Don't feel like you need to do them all and try not to read from the sheet.

Icebreakers:

1. What comes to mind when you think of spiritual posing?
2. Are all spiritual poses bad?
3. As a group, "strike a spiritual pose" and vote on the best one. Example: prayer is a spiritual pose. What other poses do people do that relate to spirituality?

What do I think?

1. Why do you think so many people spiritually pose?
2. How have you spiritually posed in the last month?
3. Tell on yourself. What's something inside of you that doesn't match the outside?
4. Honestly, how is your relationship with God right now? Is it legit or are you posing in some areas?

What does God say?

1. Read Matthew 22:37-38. "Love God" is something that we hear quite often. However, it's easier to say than to do. Why do you think this is the greatest commandment?
Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. (NLT)
2. Do you think if people cared more about what God thought about them that they would be more real with others and less of a poser? Why or why not? Do you think that you would lose some friends if you stopped posing? Do you really think it's worth it?
3. Someone is always watching us and that someone is God. What poses would you make more often if you really believed God was watching? What poses would you stop making?

What steps will I take?

1. What are some ways we can hold each other accountable to quit being a spiritual poser?
2. Draw a picture of your heart this week. What does it reveal about you?
3. Write a prayer to God about what is really on your heart.

Group Challenge:

Well, did you do it? Did you memorize Matthew 7:1-5? Can anyone in the group say it all? You have one more week to memorize it. Who is going to do it? This week let's make a conscious effort to remember that God is with you wherever you go. Make this a week to practice being in God's presence. It will help you be aware of how much posing we do when others are watching vs. how much posing we do when God is watching. Will this be the week that you care more about what God sees than what others see?