

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2024 - WEDNESDAY AM | Dan Gregory

Overview:

Speaker (Dan Gregory) kicked off the session asking the question: Do you have a secret? Dan shared his own secret as a fourth grader and how he hated Sunday School but loved his electronic football game. And what started as an easy manageable secret quickly turned into an exhaustive and hard to keep secret. Some students think they have mastered the art of their secret, and those secrets seem impossible to expose. Jesus wants us to know that He did not come to accuse but to be an advocate for us. What might seem like the worst day of our lives when sin is exposed, can be the most freeing and liberating day of our lives with Jesus.

Key Scripture: John 8:2-12; 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 2:5-6

Ice-breaker Question: Are you a good secret keeper OR a bad secret keeper? Have you ever had to keep a secret for someone else? How did you feel?

Dig Deeper:

READ John 8:2-12

- *As Jesus is teaching in the temple court, who is it that interrupts Him and why? (A: Scribes & Pharisees to bring forth a woman caught in adultery)*

What the woman was being accused of by the Pharisees is not in question and the Jewish law would support the consequence of that sin, which was stoning. However, the scriptures point out that the scribes and pharisees were using this secret sin to trap Jesus. This is where we see the “stooping Jesus” come into play who doesn’t condemn the woman but begins to write in the ground and one by one those ready to stone the woman leave.

- *Imagine if you were the woman in John 8 who was caught in the middle of her sin. What are some words that would describe how you would feel?*

THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE CREDENTIALS/RIGHT TO THROW STONES AT YOU, INSTEAD STOOPED DOWN TO SAVE YOU

- *In what ways have you experienced the stooping Savior in your life? Are there ways that you have seen God stoop down in compassion towards you?*

READ 1 John 2:2

Dan defined the word PROPITIATION as ‘the entire weight of my condemnation was placed on Jesus.’ Then Dan illustrated that idea by sharing the story of the coach who ‘ran the fence’ for his players.

- *If Jesus, who already knows my sins, ran the fence for me, then what is keeping me from handing over my secret sin to Jesus?*

JESUS IS GOD AND HE HAS RUN THE FENCE FOR YOU!

READ John 8:12

Two things Dan shared with us regarding LIGHT:

- 1. Light hurts before it can help**
 - a. Little Danny didn't want his dad to find him and the secret he was trying to hide. For little Danny, the light hurt before it could help.
- 2. Light reveals before it can heal**
 - a. The light revealed the location where little Danny was hiding, making him face the secret sin head on.

READ the following passages from 1 John:

- 1 John 1:5-7** | If I claim to be a Christian but I am living my own life, I have missed the real message of Jesus
- 1 John 2:5-6** | Whoever claims to live for Jesus must live as Jesus did. More of Jesus, less of me
- 1 John 1:8 & 10** | If we claim to be free from sin, we only deceive ourselves

THE LONGER I FOLLOW JESUS, THE MORE AWARE I AM OF MY SIN

There is a stooping Savior looking under the table for you ... Are you ready to grab his hand and come into the LIGHT?

Group Discussion:

1. Imagine if you were the woman in John 8:2-11; what are some words that would describe how you'd feel in the moment of being caught? What are some words that would describe how you'd feel in the moment you were set free by Jesus?
2. Have you ever had a "secret" story like Pastor Dan's story? If you had a secret brought to light in the past, did you see the stooping Jesus as your Advocate in that moment?
3. What will it take for you to accept the invitation to get out from under the table and walk into the light that hurts before it heals?