

Discussion Questions March 11, 2018
Three Woes and a Great Kindness
(Revelation 8:13-9:21, 11:15-19)

(When do you feel most alone?)

Even before the fall God said, “It is not good for man [*the adam*] to be alone.”

- How do you experience loneliness? What does it stir in you?
- Why do you think God said, “It is not good for man to be alone?”

Early on in Genesis, God kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden and cursed the world. In this sermon, Peter said, “The curse is like God’s first act of redemption—it means that Eve and Adam could not endlessly hide behind walls of their own construction; they could not remain endlessly alone.”

- Have you ever thought of God’s curse on the world as an act of love?
- How might his action be loving?
- What might it be protecting Adam & Eve from?

“The first act of open rebellion, after the fall—against a specific command of God, is building a city. Cain is commanded to wander, but instead, he builds a city.”—Peter Hiett

- Based on the premise that God is a loving Father, why do you think He wanted Cain to wander?
- Why did He *not* want him to build a city?
- If you were to apply God’s desire for Cain to your own life, what might his desire for us to “wander” look like in your life versus “building a city.” (Think of what wandering involves & what it requires of you versus dwelling in a city. Where does one place their trust when they live in a city? Where does one place their trust when wandering?)

“We think we’re saved by walls . . . but maybe we need saving *from* walls.”—Peter Hiett

- Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- In what situations are you tempted toward isolation & the building of walls?
- If God desires that we don’t build walls, what kind of implications does this have on a larger scale? For instance, for the Church, governments, the way we govern our lives: schools, social clubs etc.

Throughout the Revelation & even throughout Scripture, it becomes clear that God’s is in the business of tearing down our manmade walls & saving us from isolation in order to establish His Kingdom.

- In our human minds, what might be the “dangers” of the walls coming down?
- What might be the benefits of the walls coming down? What might *that* look like in our world?

“When human judgment reigns in the human soul it looks like self-consciousness, self-interest, shame, anxiety and fear. It’s a soul pre-occupied with safety and never sacrifice. But when God’s Judgment reigns in the human soul, it looks something like sacrificial love.”—Peter Hiett

- In what area(s) do you feel most self-consciousness, self-interested, shameful, anxious & fearful.
- Take a moment to offer that up to God and invite Him to pour out His sacrificial love in and through you.

Peter Hiett’s interpretation of the locusts in Revelation 9 is that they are demons. He said, “demons inhabit the places wherein we have believed lies. They tempt us to build walls ...They literally damn the flow of life.. The lies can cause us to struggle to love our enemies, struggle to forgive, struggle to believe we’re forgiven and thoroughly loved.

- Think of an enemy that you struggle to love.
- Think of someone you struggle to forgive.
- When in your life do you most struggle to believe you are completely forgiven and thoroughly love.

“It’s the kindness of God that conquers the world and makes all things new. It’s the kindness of God that leads you to repentance.”—Peter Hiett

This week, see if you can make some time and space to reflect on the kindness of God. Make space to drink in the kindness of God that you might pour out the kindness of God onto others. Watch the walls come tumbling down & the construction of the New Jerusalem. “When you are kind, Christ in you lays siege to the kingdom of Hell.”—Peter Hiett