



SOUL CARE: PART 4: WHAT A SOUL WANTS

January 26, 2020

Pastor Brad Williams

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT(S):

Psalm 42; Psalm 103:1; James 1:5-8; James 4:8; Matthew 22:36-39

SUMMARY

Life can be as dangerous as an icy road. If we're not careful, we can end up in a ditch, a place we don't want to be. In order to avoid this, we need to take the time to slow down and care for our souls. What does the soul need?

According to Pastor Brad, the soul has three needs. First the soul needs to be whole, it needs to be integrated. Secondly, the soul needs to be satisfied and satisfied in a healthy way. Third, the soul needs to be free. If we attempt to fulfill these needs on our own, we often cause ourselves more harm than good. It is only through the Gospel that the soul's needs can really be fulfilled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
2. What was the most meaningful thing you learned about the soul this week?
3. Have you ever had an experience like Pastor Brad did of driving in dangerous conditions? What happened?
4. When was the last time you lost something important to you?
What happened? Did you find it?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Do you think Psalm 42 expresses doubt? Why or why not?
2. What do you learn about the soul from Psalm 103:1?
3. What phrase is used in both James 1:5-8 and James 4:8?
How might this phrase related to our discussion of the soul?
4. What does Jesus say is the greatest commandment? How might the greatest commandment related to our discussion of soul care?
5. What sticks out to you about the soul from these passages?
Which concept or passage is most meaningful to you today?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In Psalm 42, it seems that the psalmist is wrestling with the tension between what he believes about God and the circumstances of his life. Do you think there is a way to resolve this tension? Why or why not?

2. Pastor Brad taught that the soul has three major needs. One of them is for the soul to be whole and integrated. What does it look like when the soul is not integrated? Can you think of an example of someone you know or know of who is lacking that wholeness?
3. The second need our soul has is satisfaction. What does it look like when a soul is not satisfied? What types of desires have you seen people chase after to try to fulfill their souls?
4. The third desire of the soul is for freedom. What does it look like for a soul to lose its freedom? How have you seen people become enslaved in their search for wholeness or satisfaction?
5. How do you think the Gospel helps to meet our soul's needs? How do the passages above and the sermon this week influence your thinking on this?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Have you ever had to wrestle with the same kind of tension the psalmist does in Psalm 42? How did you express how you were feeling to God? Was the tension resolved?
2. Have you ever experienced being "double-minded" or "double-souled" in your own life? What caused the disintegration? How did you resolve it?
3. What desires, besides God, have you chased after to find satisfaction for your soul? What was the result?
4. Have you ever found your soul enslaved to something, other than God? How did you find freedom?
5. How has the truth of the Gospel brought your soul greater wholeness, satisfaction, and freedom? Is there any piece of the Gospel that has hit you in a new way this week to help you better fulfill the needs of your soul?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How might your group pray for you this week as you seek to wrestle with some of the tensions of life?
2. Which soul need is most potent in your life right now? How can your group encourage you this week as you seek to meet this need?
3. Is there a piece of the Gospel you need to more fully embrace to find wholeness, satisfaction, or freedom for your soul? How can your group support you?