

The Only Resolution Worth Making

Good morning. It's great to get to preach this first morning of 2012. How many of you made some awesome new years resolutions? Anyone? How many of you have already failed your new years resolutions? I don't like 'em. Matter of fact, I realized a few years ago that they just don't work for me. We might as well call them New Years Wishes or New Years Suggestions, because Resolving is not something I actually do when it comes to these "commitments." I've been through the "I want to lose some weight" commitment. I've been through the "I'm giving up Dr. Pepper for a year...no 6 months...no 1 month...a week, a day, THE NEXT 5 MINUTES, I AM RESOLVED TO NOT DRINK DR. PEPPER. It's an addiction I tell you...I'm in counseling for it. Alright.

Well, there are some people that are a lot better than I am that have stuck with their resolutions for an entire year...I just don't know any of them. But this morning, we want to kick this year off in the right way, and I want to share with you **THE ONLY RESOLUTION WORTH MAKING!**

So turn with me to **Isaiah 26:8-9**. Over the next few weeks, Pastor is going to be preaching through a series called Rock Solid where we are examining the foundation of our church here, FBLEX, and the Church as a whole, the Body of Christ around the world. Really, when everything is boiled down to it, the foundation of our faith is exemplified in this passage, so read it with me.

"In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; for your name and your remembrance are the desire of our soul." (8 ESV)

"Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your truth we wait EAGERLY for you, for your name and your renown (fame) is the desire of our soul." (8 NIV)

"My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit with in earnestly seeks you." (9a ESV).

What did Jesus say the greatest commandment was, "LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS as yourself." So there and here, we see that our aim in life, our aim to live a life that is about the Gospel is to Love God, or as I like to share with our students PURSUE JESUS PASSIONATELY, and to live for Him, loving others, by MAKING HIM FAMOUS.

This morning I want to show you that the only resolution worth making for this year, for this day, for ANY DAY is to **Pursue Jesus Passionately** (walking in the way of His truth) **and to Make Him Famous** (Your name and your fame is the desire of my soul).

What do I mean when I say pursue Jesus passionately? In short, that following Jesus is not for the faint of heart. All throughout Scripture Jesus cut to the heart of the matter when speaking with others to let them know that the call to follow is not an easy one.

Luke 9:57-62

Not just these. The woman at the well. The rich young ruler. Following Jesus is not easy. Now being a fan of Jesus is easy. There's a ton of people that are fans of Jesus. They like what he stands for and may even believe Him to be God's son, but it isn't having an effect on their lives. Craig Groeschel calls these people Christian Atheists (those who believe in God, but live as if he doesn't exist).

So it's not for the faint of heart, it's not for the lazy, not for the lackadaisical, and not for the Casual. It is for the **COVENANTED!** There's a difference between these three and the disciples. The disciples, in the end, stood with Christ even to their death. They were in covenant with Him. I'm not going anywhere. And let me tell you, God is in covenant with you. **Romans 8:38** says nothing can separate us. God saying, you are mine forever. I'm not going anywhere. He's for you and with you always. He only demands our whole lives. That we would respond in kind. I'm not going anywhere! See what I mean when I say that Christianity isn't for the casual, it's for the covenanted. We must pursue Jesus PASSIONATELY. We must

spend our lives, give our time, turn over our relationships, our everything to Him. The best description I have ever heard of it is a weird one. Is the Gospel infecting every relationship in your life, every area of your life? This is how you pursue Jesus Passionately. Then your marriage becomes about putting God on display. Your work, your job is about putting God on display. Your schooling, your sports team students, your extracurricular activities, the way you raise and treat your children, your parents, your families, it's about putting God on display.

That leads us to the next part. We don't just want to make the resolution to Pursue Jesus Passionately, but also to Make Him Famous (His name and renown the desires of our souls). And quickly I just want to share with you that there's no magical formula for this. It's about the Gospel infecting your life and every way and then you begin to put God on display. You can't do it on your own. You can't just decide to get better at it...it won't work. I'll show you.

Matthew 14:13-21

What we give to them, we get from Him!

We have nothing to offer to our children, to our parents, to our co-workers, neighbors, families. In and of ourselves, we have nothing. There's nothing within that is going to make Jesus famous. But we can give to others everything that Jesus has given to us. That will make Him famous. He's on display when He is at work within us and we keep returning. And I say this because I want you to know that no matter where you are in this...no matter how new you are to this pursuing Jesus passionately thing...even if today is the first day of it - Just like the disciples, if Jesus gives you something, you have something to offer to others that is going to make Him famous. Your life immediately becomes a showcase for God to show off.

So family...let's resolve. Let's make a resolution this morning to Pursue Jesus Passionately. And live to Make Him Famous. Would you bow your heads with me? The band is going to lead us in a time of reflection and while they are playing, we want to open the altar here for you to come and respond to God as the Spirit prompts you. Make this covenant with him. Step beyond the casual into the covenant, and let's see God made famous in this community. Let me pray for us.