

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Sad and difficult Bible passages

Message 1 "...but I found none" Ezekiel 22:30

- I. God uses People – often just one.
 - a. God uses people to work through – Phil. 2:13
 - b. God is looking for the willing
- II. God found on one on this day
 - a. No one was willing to be used
 - b. No one was responding to the call
 - c. No one cared about the need
- III. Instances where God DID find someone
 - a. Aaron – Numbers 16:48
 - b. Esther – Esther 4:14
 - c. Nehemiah – Nehemiah 2
- IV. Is God looking for you?
 - a. Someone in Your Family?
 - b. Someone in Your Neighborhood?
 - c. Someone in Your Church?
 - d. Someone at Your Job?

Message 2: “Depart from me...”
Matthew 7:13-23

- I. The Setting: The Great White Throne Judgement
 - ** Judgement of the Lost from all of history
- II. The Judge: Jesus Christ
- III. The Standard: The Lambs Book of Life
- IV. The Subjects: The Unbelievers
- V. The Verdict: Eternal Damnation
- VI. The Hope: Belief in Christ and Christ Alone!

Message 3: "Take up your cross daily and follow Me"

Luke 9:23-24

- I. The Cross was a known symbol of death
 - Christ had not yet died upon the cross as He spoke these words.
- II. Our cross is dying to self and defeating Pride
- III. So, how do I die to self?
 - a. Put aside my own will for God's will
 - i. Romans 12:2 "be not conformed to this world"
 - ii. Prov. 3:6 "I will direct thy paths"
 - b. Sacrifice of my time and my desires
 - i. We are possessive of our time
 - ii. We are possessive of our schedules
 - Biblical example of Jonah
 - c. Love One Another
 - i. Learning to be a servant
 - ii. Learning to love the unlovable, undesirable
 - iii. John 13:34-35
 - d. Remove sin that is hampering my relationship with God – deal with that "besetting sin" – Heb. 12:1
 - e. Spend time with God – personal devotions

Message 4: “but Amnon had a friend” – II Samuel 13

- I. This account is due to the sin of David in II Sam. 11, 12
- II. Amnon had evil thoughts towards his half sister (vs. 1, 2)
- III. Amnon would not hurt her – but Jonadeb encouraged him and devised a plan with him.
 - a. The importance of having the right friends
 - b. Peer pressure is real at all ages and is used for both good and bad.
 - c. We must have Godly friends that help us avoid these pitfalls, not concoct a plan to follow them.
 - d. Importance of our Church family – Heb. 10:25
 - e. Jesus is our friend – Prov. 18:24
 - f. We are to take drastic measures to avoid sin:
Matthew 5:30 “if thy hand offend thee – cut it off”
 - g. We must avoid those who enable sin