



SERMON DISCUSSION

Throwing Off the Rules

Quotable Moments:

- We get to choose whether we follow Jesus. We don't get to choose how we follow.
- Jesus is the King who came to reverse the order of everything.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14

Key Things You Heard:

- At every point along the journey of following Jesus -- the point isn't actually what God is asking us to do. The point of the journey is who we're becoming.
- Following focuses me on where I am rather than where you are not.
- Compassion = giving pause to feel for a person's plight regardless of how they got there.
- Kindness = using my strength to help others even when I have no obligation.
- Humility = seeing myself in proper perspective to God and others.
- Gentleness = a decision to respond to you in light of your strength and weakness, instead of responding to you out of my strength.
- Patience = deciding to move at your speed instead of mine.
- The more conscious I am of the work God still has to do in me, the less critical I am of the work He still has to do in you.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for being my Savior, Forgiver and Friend. I know that without that, I could not have a relationship with you. I also thank you for being Messiah, Christ, and Lord. But even as King, you chose to lead us in demonstrating love. I choose to daily "dress myself" in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. I choose to be for others, rather than seeking what I want. In doing so, I pray I will resemble you and represent you to those around me. Thank you for giving me the power to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Moving Forward:

- Two-step daily process: 1. Pay attention. 2. Stay in step.
- Memorize Colossians 3:12
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend. Go to rivertown.cc or the RCC App.

Questions for Group Discussion:

First Minutes: How would you answer this question: "Which is easier - rule-keeping or relationship building?" How does your answer vary depending on the context (home, work, hobbies, politics, etc)?"

- Think back over the last week. How many times did God nudge you to respond in a way that's not natural for you? How many of those did you choose to follow Him?
- Read Colossians 3:12. Why do you think the Apostle Paul used the analogy of "dress in the wardrobe"? Would you describe this as natural or difficult for you? Why?
- Looking at the definitions in "Key Things you Heard", which of these virtues do you struggle with the most?
- Go around the group and share an example of when you saw the person seated to your right live out one of these virtues.
- Read Colossians 3:14. What is the significance of verse 12 starting with love, and verse 14 ending with love? How is this a reminder of the importance of following Jesus from a heart of love? If you have time, read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.
- What can you do to become more conscious or self-aware of how you are responding? How can this group help you?
- What area would you like the group to pray for you in? What may be causing you stress as you look at the next week?