

The Big Picture

Part 2 – People

Matthew 12:1-14

1. Read Hebrews 4:12, then the following; *“The word of God is living and active because the audience of the word of God, we human beings, are also living and active. There is no “one size fits all” message in the bible, instead there is an endless number of tailor made messages for living and active people”* Why does this make the Bible one of the most wonderful books and also one of the most difficult book?
2. Share any moments when the bible has been living and inactive in the context of your living and active life?
3. The following passages all point to the heart of the gospel, you can read them all if you wish, but you can probably stop when you get the point. (Matthew 12:1-14, John 4: 1-42, Luke 7:36-50, John 8:1-11, Mark 2:15, Matthew 8:1-3, Matthew 9:20-22, Matthew 8:5-15). So what is the heart of Gospel?
4. Why is it that the Pharisees saw people as problems and Jesus saw them as people?
5. In Matthew 12:1-14, what is the attitude of the Pharisees? How does it lead to the sentiments expressed in Matthew 12:14?
6. Jesus said to *on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*" (Matthew 16:6). How do we become like the Pharisees?
7. Why does grace save us from becoming Pharisees? Ephesians 2:8
8. OK the song does say, grace is amazing, but what about truth and purity and holiness and obedience? What about the law? Jesus said I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matthew 5:17). So how do all these biblical elements fit together?
9. *I was praying during the week when God dropped this metaphor into my mind that I found helpful. That the church is like an icebreaker and the reinforced bow of the boat is grace. It is God’s loving grace that cuts through the ice of our heart, the ice of our sin and the ice of our indifference. It is grace that leads the way, that comes first, but it is not the only part of the ship. The deck of the ship is God’s law and gives us a place to stand. The superstructure is God’s holiness keeping everything together. The design of the ship is God’s purity moving us gracefully through the water. The engine is the power of God’s spirit. But grace is the bow, and it comes before everything else, it has to. DISCUSS*