

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Tim mentioned that the self-righteous Pharisees weaponized God's sabbath and law, which was supposed to rejuvenate. When you hear the phrase "God's law," in one word, describe what feeling or thoughts come to mind? Then discuss why?
- b) Given Vs. 1-6, Tim mentioned that self-righteousness alienates us from God. What do you think is God's posture to those who do not fulfill His law's demands?
- c) Sincerely, discuss how you view God whenever you are in a state of neediness (physical, emotional, relational, etc). Then, discuss how that view of God impacts how you approach people and life challenges.

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) We all need healing. How have you experienced self-righteousness, and how did it hinder you from receiving healing from sin and even the challenges of life?
- b) We all want honor. Tim noted that being made in God's image drives our pursuit of honor and glory, but the issue arises when we pursue them through inappropriate means (Jas 4:1-3). In what ways have you desired products of honor (i.e., recognition, access, promotion, respect, etc.) by any means not of Christ?
- c) We all make excuses: Viewing ourselves as the gods of our lives leads us to make excuses for why our way is more urgent and better than God's call to grace and obedience. What excuses are you making today to reject or minimize God's grace and commands?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Given vs. 12-24; Tim mentioned that we cannot repay God for the gift of salvation. In view of Christ's humility, how has He paid the debt of our breaking the law? And why is it impossible for us to pay Him back?
- b) Although the gift of salvation is inclusive to all (people, nations, tribes, ethnicities) who believe in Jesus by faith, the proud cannot receive the invitation to salvation. Discuss why only the humble and needy can receive Christ.
- c) Tim reminded that every believer has been raised with Christ in high places by grace through faith (Eph 2:1-7). How does the "believers' position" affect how they approach the call to humility towards God and others?

APPLICATION

- a) Discuss any that resonate with you as you think through the following application.
 - God's compassion for us through Christ should propel our humility towards Him and others.
 - God's grace calls us to humbly love others and empowers us to see excuses for disobedience as "rubbish" compared to the surpassing worth of knowing and imitating Christ, our Lord.
 - True humility comes from recognizing that Christ has already honored the believer, and there is even hope of glory when sitting in places recognized as lowly by the world.

PRAYER

- Praise the Father for marvelous loving compassion.
- Confess ways you are walking in self-righteousness and pride, seeking earthly honor rather than healing.
- Thank Christ that through Him, you have access to God's own grace.
- Ask God for power and wisdom to fix your eyes on the cross that both honors and humbles you.