

COAL – The Unopened Gift

Weekend Discussion Questions

December 11-12, 2010

Community:

1. Share the best COAL story you've heard this week (other than your own).
2. How hectic has your holiday season been so far? Is this normal?
3. What was the best vacation you've ever taken, and how restful was it?

Core:

1. Are you able to work in some "rest time" during the holidays or is it a lost cause?
2. Does the idea of God resting on the 7th day of creation help in understanding rest? Why?
3. God doesn't need rest, so why do you think He rested after six days of creation?
4. "Sabbath" literally means *stop...cease...rest*. What are some ways you take a Sabbath?
5. How do you see *Christmas On Another Level* dovetailing with the idea of "resting"?
6. Read Matthew 12:1-8. According to the Pharisees, what was so wrong here?
7. What do you think of Jesus' response to the Pharisees? How would you have responded?
8. Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6: "*I desire mercy, not sacrifice*". What do you think this means?
9. Scott pointed out that in Sabbath law "*human need always took priority over religious ritual*." Where can we see that in Jesus' time, and where do we see it today?
10. If the point of the Sabbath was *rest and worship*, how did people get so far off-track?
11. Jesus said He's "*Lord of the Sabbath*." Does this mean (as Christians) we're exempt from the call to incorporate rest and worship in our lives? Why or why not?
12. Read Matthew 12:9-14 and discuss why the Pharisees were so driven to attack Jesus.
13. What do the Pharisees prove is most valuable to them in this story?
14. What does Jesus prove is of utmost value to God in this story?
15. If Jesus is truly "Lord of our Sabbath", what do you think He's telling us about how we celebrate Christmas—the celebration of His birth?

Challenge:

1. Take some time this week to take a critical look at your calendar for the holidays and work in some specific times of rest.
2. Invite your family and friends to Flatirons for the Christmas Services (December 18th & 19th) to celebrate and usher in the Christmas week.



flatirons
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Weekend Services | Sat 5:00 & 6:30pm | Sun 9:00, 10:30 & 11:55am, 6:30pm