Showing the Real Me- Owning the Mess

Greg Kline · James 5:13–20

INTRODUCTION

- We come from different backgrounds and we bring different strengths and different weaknesses into the church.
- I have to learn to acknowledge, put forward, and yes, even address that I am a mess. I have to be willing to show the real me.
- Not just for the sake of saying I have struggles and feel a kumbaya bond, but to say I need help with those struggles.

1 God Already Sees the Real Me

1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:10

- Confess your sins to God, and he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Before I even think about needing to reveal myself to others, I have to know God already sees the real me.
- Even if you were successful in fooling others, we will never fool God.
- We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 I Need Others to See the Real Me

Matthew 23:25–28; James 5:16

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.
- You also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
- When I sin, if I don't bring it up, you know what I'm tempted to do? Sweep it under the rug and move forward as if it didn't happen.
- I need it out in the open so that it can be solved, so that you can help me, so that I can help you.

3 Others Need Me to Be Real Too

Hebrews 10:23–25

- It was the fact that they were leading others astray. Others need me to be real too.
- Let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.
- Maybe if we were more real with one another, we could see that there is somebody here who understands. That you're not alone facing that struggle or temptation.
- But you know what happens with all that wisdom I've gained if I keep it bottled up? It's wasted.

4 Why Is Being Real So Hard?

Matthew 7:1–5; Galatians 6:1–2

- It would mean I'm admitting I'm a mess. It would mean admitting I have failed.
- One of those is the fear that people may judge me.
- What Jesus says is not, don't judge. He's saying, you focus on you.
- Here's the truth according to God's word. I need you. And you need me.
- We think others don't have my problems. This is just a straight lie.
- Being real is hard because simply it makes me uncomfortable.

5 What Should We Do About It?

James 5:15–16; 2 Corinthians 1:3–6

- One of them is recognize it will help my soul.
- God says, you know what's on the table with transparency? Forgiveness of sins.
- Who comforts us in our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- If we are close and we strengthen our relationships, we'll be the family that God destined us to be.
- Removing my mask matches God's plan. God says, you have a sin problem, and there's a solution for it.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Don't let the devil win. Make God proud. Accept his plan.**

MY NOTES