



Cynicism

Opening Questions:

When you think of the phrase "Didn't See it Coming" what comes to mind? What images, quotes, ideas, movies, and experiences come to your mind? Share one with the group.

Why do you think that even though many challenges of life are common we still are usually unprepared for them and we often don't prevent them when they can be preventable?

Group Study:

Do you think cynicism is something you are more or less prone to? How much of your disposition do you think is your personality-driven versus your experiences?

Do you agree with the distinction made in the sermon between cynicism and healthy skepticism/realism? Why or why not? How do you differentiate between them in your own life?

Read John 18:28-40.

What stands out to you in the scripture passage from John 18:28-40?

How does Pilate's question about truth relate to the concept of moral relativism, where individuals may question the existence of absolute truth? Do you see any connection between cynicism and the emergence of moral relativism in our world today?

Pastor David offered three reasons we often become cynical: 1) Things we thought were true, weren't as true as we thought; 2) We take pains from the past and project them into the future; 3) We let our hearts harden and we give up. Is there one or more of these that you can relate to? Share your experience.

Application:

Pastor David suggested that we overcome cynicism by choosing faith in Christ - trusting Jesus' power to heal our pain and overcome our hang-ups. Do you think that there's any place where cynicism has taken hold of your life where you need to let Jesus in to do some healing?

If you see a friend or family member struggling with cynicism, what can you do in love to support them?

Next Steps 2023

- Encouraging one another, what is a next step following Jesus you need to take or can celebrate taking with your group? Tell us about it using the QR code below.

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.
- Guided prayer: Lord, give us the courage to see our cynicism and give it to you in faith. Amen.

