

SERMON SERIES: THE DIFFERENCE HE MAKES

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Sermon title:

“The Difference He Makes: GOODNESS”

Introduction

There is a lot going on around Calvary this week. This past week we continued our series, The Difference He Makes, by focusing on kindness as a fruit of the Spirit. This Sunday was our Student Weekend, and we had our youth serving in all different areas of church service. Brandon Hair has served with Calvary for four years, overseeing our student ministries. This week we have the opportunity to hear from Brandon about how we can cultivate goodness in our lives.

- If you met someone from a different state, what sayings, phrases, or words do you use that they would be surprised by? (Bless your heart, “Ope”, how you pronounce a certain word, etc.)

Seek the Word

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

- Traditionally, this passage has been called the “Shema” which means “hear” in Hebrew. How does this passage help us understand the importance of hearing what God has to say to us?
- What does this passage teach us about the next generation?

Read Psalm 84:8-10.

- What does this passage tell us about the character of God?
- What does verse 10 mean when it says to “seek the Lord”?
- Why might the author of this Psalm have used the word “fear” in verse 9?

Go Deeper

Take some time this week to read through our passages again. Pick one word that stands out to you and do a word study. Use tools like Blue Letter Bible, online resources, Bible concordances, etc. Ask yourself these questions:

- What does my word mean in the original language?
- Why might the author have chose this word?
- Where else is this word found in the Bible?

Talk About It

- Is it easier to think of yourself as more or less of a good person than others? Why?
- How has the fruit of goodness been shown to you?
- Why is it important to recognize that goodness is only cultivated through the Lord?
 - What happens if we try to cultivate goodness from ourselves instead of God?

- What steps can you take this week to cultivate goodness to make a difference in the life of someone else?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Cultivating goodness empowers us to make a difference for others.

Challenge: As you go throughout your week, take time each morning to pray that God will continue to provide opportunities for you to cultivate goodness and show that goodness to other people. Pray that God will provide you with spiritual mentors and opportunities to be a spiritual guide to others who are not as far along in their faith journey.