

Rough Crowd "Rough Truth" – Jim Burgen

August 5-6

Community:

1. Have you ever had a time in your life where you completely turned your back on God?
2. The Flatirons men's and women's retreats are coming up this September. Have you been to a retreat before? What would stop you from going to this retreat?

Core:

1. What kinds of people do you believe Jesus wants to use to further His kingdom? What are His expectations of those people? Do you believe you can be used by Jesus? What is stopping you from reaching your potential in this area?
2. Jim discussed grace existing on three levels. There is grace that saves you, grace that changes you from the inside-out, and grace that gives you the strength to do what needs to be done. Grace doesn't deny the hard work required to change a person's life. What efforts have you made to live into that grace? How has your life changed? Where do you need to work harder?
3. What type of person was John the Baptist? How and why was his life and message contrary to that of "religious people" in his day? How did "religious people" respond to him? Why did Herod have John the Baptist put in prison? What happened?
4. **Read Luke 7:33-34.** Both Jesus and John the Baptist preached truth. How did the Pharisees respond to the truth? Where have you seen similar responses from people today? When you are faced with the truth in regards to your life and actions, how do you typically respond? Do you listen and make a new strategy, or do you fight back?
5. In Cody Donovan's video, he said, "When you're on the mat, it is a place of complete honesty where you have to face the truth and consequences of how you've lived your life... the mat does not lie." Consider the "mats" in your life, or the areas where you spend a lot of time. Where are you getting your butt kicked? Where do things need to change? If you were fully living into the truths that God's grace and strength are more than enough, and that Jesus is enough to make you enough, how would you respond to those situations? What would you change?

Challenge:

Jim gave several application questions at the end of his talk. What is one part of your life that you KNOW is outside of God's truth? Do you WANT that part of your life to change? What is the FIRST thing Jesus would tell you to do, and why would He tell you to do that? What is one thing that you WILL do this week to see that change begin? (Write it down, and tell someone your strategy). And if you ask, do you BELIEVE that Jesus will keep His promise to supply what you need so that what needs to change in your life can really change?