

Discussion Questions “Control” - New Day January 4-5, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Matthew 21:33-43

// Community Questions

1. Did anyone make any New Year's resolutions?
2. Has anyone already failed?

// Core Questions

1. What has God given you to take care of? Tying this into the parable of the tenants, what is the “vineyard” that God has entrusted to you?
2. Do you know of any Risk Managers in your life? What do you do, even subconsciously, to protect you from risk?
3. What was going on in your life when that Risk Manager came “online,” probably from much earlier in your life?
4. What are you afraid might happen NOW if you didn't have that Risk Manager?
5. Is the Risk Manager working, or do you still find yourself facing the fear of what might go wrong?
6. While the Risk Manager may have been necessary and beneficial earlier in your life, is it possible that God wants something different for you now? What is He telling you to do now?

// Challenge

Risk Managers are tricky. Usually, they form in us at a young age to help us through a difficult time. Without them, we may not have even made it to where we are now. They take many forms. Jim mentioned becoming controlling so bad things don't happen. Others include becoming emotionally numb so that you don't run the risk of being too vulnerable and getting hurt again, becoming indecisive to avoid making the wrong decision, or even becoming aggressive and overly confrontational to avoid feeling weak. The list goes on, but the important thing to remember is that Risk Managers aren't *bad* parts of us. Like I said before, they probably served a very noble purpose in our lives when they were formed to protect us from things that we either couldn't understand or fight on our own. The problem is when we let them control the rest of our lives, when the risks they protected us from aren't necessarily as glaring or dangerous to us now. So, take some time to become aware of these Risk Managers, honor them for what they helped with, and then pray that God will help you begin to put your faith in Him instead. *(To go deeper in this type of work, please visit liminalwork.com and consider signing up for one of their weekend retreats.)*