

Crazy Love – Video #8
Sunday September 24, 2023

1. Short opening prayer (one person or popcorn style prayer)
2. Group sharing time (time for everyone to talk about what is going on and how they are)
3. Watch video #8
4. Chapter called “Profile of the Obsessed”
 - a. Obsessed: To have the mind excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic.
 - b. First, don’t be bothered by his use of the word “obsessed.” He doesn’t mean it in a bad way or a way that suggests you should ignore all other things. When he talks about being obsessed with Christ he talks about having a “crazy love” for Christ.
 - c. Have you ever felt “obsessed” over someone, something, a situation, or a feeling? What was it and why did you become obsessed?
 - d. Francis Chan in the chapter talks about becoming obsessed with Christ.
 - i. What does it look like to be obsessed with Christ?
 - ii. The Danish philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard said that purity of heart is to will one thing. In his book named “Purity of Heart” he says that Christians constantly are called to choose between two things: a worldly thing or Christ. What he was talking about when he spoke of purity of heart was a heart that was fully devoted to Christ.
 - iii. Can you think of any New Testament characters that were obsessed with Christ?
 - Mary of Magdala, Peter
 - e. Luke 14:12-14 shows a lot of what being obsessed with Christ looks like. It is not only devotion to him, but loving others through our actions – even people we would not particularly want to love or be kind to.
 - f. Francis says, “People who are obsessed with Jesus give freely and openly, without censure. Obsessed people love those who hate them and who can never love them back.”
 - i. What do you think about this? Discuss.
 - g. I have heard it said that, “safety is the new god of America.” In many ways, Americans are obsessed with safety. If you have been to the poorest 5 or 10 percent of the world you can see the difference of perspective they have ... an obsession with safety goes far down their list. They are obsessed with the essentials: food, water, medicine, and shelter. This actually allows them to become much more obsessed with Christ than many people in places of privilege.
 - h. On pg. 133 Francis says, “People who are obsessed with Jesus aren’t consumed with their own personal safety and comfort above all else. Obsessed people care more about God’s kingdom coming to this earth than their own lives being shielded from pain and distress.”
 - i. This was the mindset of Christ, his disciples, and all the martyrs of the Christian faith over the last two millennia.
 - ii. If it comes to it, how do you choose between your safety/comfort and following Christ? Which one do you choose?
 - i. 1 Timothy 6:6-13 shows the advice that was given to a young Timothy about what it means to be obsessed with Christ.
 - i. Can you live that kind of faith ... the one that Timothy was being invited to? Why or why not? Discuss.

- j. On pg. 135 Chan says “People who are obsessed with Jesus live lives that connect them with the poor in some way or another. Obsessed people believe that Jesus talked about money and the poor so often because it was really important to him.” 1 John 2:4-6, Matthew 16:24-26
 - k. Pg. 135-136 shows a story of Francis coming back from a mission trip to Africa. He was convicted to sell his house and move into a smaller one so they could have more to support mission. This is what it looks like to be obsessed with Christ.
 - l. Francis continues the chapter saying that people who are obsessed with Christ: recognize the need to learn humility, they are serve, recognize they are sojourners (just here on earth temporarily), are completely open and honest with God, and more.
 - m. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ... this is an essential verse to Jewish people throughout the ages. What God was telling them was that God wanted all of their devotion ... not just some. If they had to nail it to their doorpost or hang it around their neck to accomplish the job then so be it. Read all throughout the Old Testament (from the exodus to the times when they were in exile) and you will see a clear picture of a God who wanted all of their hearts and lives. Jesus is asking for the same thing.
 - n. Close by discussing how you can completely devote your life to God, how you can help others to do the same thing, and how you might be blessed by making this choice.
5. Closing prayer