



Didn't See It Coming Part I: Kicking Cynicism in the Teeth

Sermon Big Idea

You never thought you'd be a cynic, did you? Nobody wants to be cynical, but so many people end up there. Why? Cynicism starts not because you don't care, but because you do. Surprisingly, most cynics are former optimists. We'll look at how cynicism starts, how to recognize it and how to stop it.

To kick cynicism in the teeth, stay curious. And trust again, hope again, believe again.

Discussion Questions

1. When you were younger, would you have considered yourself an optimist, a realist or a pessimist? What are you now? Why?
2. What do you think makes people grow cynical?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-8 & 16-18. According to this text, what makes your sorrow increase? Why?
4. "Cynics project past failures onto future situations." Have you seen this happen? How?
5. It can be hard to trust again, hope again, and to believe again after you've chosen to stop trusting, hoping, and believing. How does Ephesians 1:15-20 show you that God will help you do that?
6. What do you think of the statement "The curious are never cynical, and the cynical are never curious"? Have you seen this to be true? How does curiosity bring an end to cynicism?
7. What can help you to grow your curiosity?
8. What will you choose to be hopeful about this week?

Scripture Passages

Ecclesiastes 1:18 & 2:17
Solomon (3rd King of Israel) wrote this near the end of his life.

Judges 13:5 & 16:28
God promised to Samson's mother that Samson would begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines. Despite Samson's failings, God still brought hope into a dark situation.

Ephesians 1:15-20
Paul encourages the Ephesian church to hold to hope in every situation, because hope leads us to understand God's plan.