

~~This Is Not~~ The End

Group Discussion Guide // Week 10

WARM-UP

1. Describe a time when you discovered something about a person that was very surprising – a “don’t judge a book by its cover” moment.
 2. Describe a time when marketing totally worked on you.
 3. If your 13-year-old self came into \$100 unexpectedly, what would you spend it on?
 4. What’s the best time you’ve ever had at a wedding? What made it great?
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TRUTH

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.” (Revelation 18:4-5)

In these chapters Babylon is depicted as a prostitute. She’s riding the beast from earlier visions, and she’s getting kings drunk. The prostitute is out to get people into her lifestyle that’s all focused on luxury, sex, and injustice. God’s people in all generations are called to resist the seduction of Babylon, because a far greater gift is offered to them by Jesus.

Looks Can Be Deceiving

Read Revelation 17:4-6

Don’t let the royal garb fool you! This woman might look like a queen, but we’re shown who she really is. She’s drunk with the blood of martyrs and she’s doing the work of the devil. Like the prostitute, when human empires worship money or power or sex or luxury, it inevitably leads to destruction and injustice. Let’s be honest though, human empires are made up of humans, and it’s humans that are enticed to worship these things. The prostitute’s goal is to get **you** drunk on power or sex or money or luxury.

- ▶ In what ways does our culture encourage the worship of power, luxury, sex, and money?
- ▶ How can a person handle these things properly without worshipping them?

Over-Promise, Under-Deliver

Read Revelation 18:9-14

We see here what awaits those who fall for the prostitute's seduction. When she is defeated by the Lamb, the "kings of the earth" and the "merchants" weep. The prostitute promised fulfillment and satisfaction, but her promises were empty. If we worship money or power or sex or luxury, we will end up crushed with disappointment. These things can't deliver what our souls crave.

- ▶ Read Revelation 18:4-5. What response should God's people have to the prostitute's invitations and why?

GRACE

A Wedding Awaits

Read Revelation 19:6-9

This is a stunning contrast. Babylon is a prostitute; Jesus is a husband. Babylon's aim is exploitation; Jesus loves people so much he joins himself to them in covenant love. The reality is that we've all given in to the prostitute in different ways. But Jesus rescues us, cleans, and gets us ready for the wedding. The reason we can resist what the prostitute offers through sin is that true satisfaction is available to us in Jesus.

CHANGE

1. In what ways does Babylon the prostitute impact how you see the world? How should it impact the way you see the world?
2. Are there ways you've been "dating the prostitute"? In other words, as a Jesus follower, are there ways you're sinning that your culture celebrates but God deems wicked?
3. How does the promise of the covenant love of Jesus empower you to walk away from the prostitute's offer?

PRAYER

- ▶ Pray for anyone repenting of sin.
- ▶ Pray for a revelation of the covenant love of Jesus.