

OPEN WATER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAY 17 | CRAIG REES

Proverbs 28:13-14 • Psalm 139:23-24 • Matthew 5:29-30 • John 16:7-8

Romans 2:4, 3:23-24 • James 5:16 • 1 John 1:8-10.

Clearing the decks prepares us for action because it helps people see and forms and deepens vital relationships.

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not at all, 10 being very much) how central to your walk with God is clearing the decks as Pastor Craig described it? If high, why. If low, why not?
2. Read John 16:8. How do you understand what the Spirit was sent to do?
3. There is a positive guilt that encourages us to address issues we've ignored or never seen. Living with guilt destroys our confidence, damages our relationships, and keeps us stuck in my past. How has guilt, positive or negative, impacted your life? What form does negative guilt take for you?
4. We must learn to practice clearing the decks without it taking us into a negative emotional tailspin. Back in the 1600s, Blaise Pascal, the famous French mathematician and philosopher, considered our unique abilities to reason and to feel and still, somehow, reach the truth. Pascal wrote, "We know truth, not only by the reason, but also by the heart." Feelings often have a bad press in Christianity but what are the benefits of balancing truth and emotions? How "balanced" are you?
5. Pastor Craig referenced Patrick Lencioni's book, *The Motive*. The book addressed the difference between rewards-centered and responsibility-centered leadership. Share one example of both approaches to leadership that you have experienced, noting how it impacted you.
6. The first part of leading well, is leading yourself well. What does leading yourself well look like for you?
7. How do you encourage those you do life with to clear the deck? Reading Romans 2:4, how is your encouragement done with clarity, charity, and resolve?
8. Read James 5:16. What does this look like in your life?
9. Read Romans 3:24. What impact does the word 'freely' have on the fact that we are put right with God by grace? How easy is it for you to accept that and forgive yourself?