

Advent and the Beauty of God

John 1:4-14
Message by
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We are made in the image of God, designed to worship and long for Him. Yet sin has warped our passions to long for those things that often lead us away from God. Many of our pursuits (not all bad) shape us in ways we often do not always realize. Because we are made to be drawn to beauty, many times we seek beauty outside of God's.

Read John 1:1-14, Psalm 27:1-4, Romans 1:25

1. In Romans 1:25, the Apostle Paul writes that "They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself" In what ways have we traded God's truth for lies?
2. Why do we as a human race make heroes out of athletes, rock stars, politicians, actors, billionaires, and gangsters?
3. Pastor Riddle said, "To make us disciples of other Kings and Citizens of other kingdoms....outside the City of God." Are there examples in your own life that aim to capture your heart and passions that are outside the things of God?

4. James K.A. Smith writes in his book *Desiring the Kingdom*: "We are what we love, and we love what we worship." Do you believe that to be true and how so?
5. Smith uses the term "Cultural/Secular Liturgies" that both form and malform the human heart. What particularly resonated with you in his example of "the Liturgy of the Mall"?
6. What makes Christian/Church Liturgy so radically different than all secular liturgies of our culture?
7. Where have you seen the beauty of God in your life or in the lives of others?

