MadMen "TinMen" – Jim Burgen

September 16-17

Community:

1. In our culture, who tells you who you are?
2. According to advertising in general, what is the path to a happy and fulfilling life?

Core:

1. We all start with a blank page about who we are and our worth. Thinking of your past, who and what wrote on your page? What did they write?
2. Read Matthew 4:5-6. Why would jumping off the temple be tempting to Jesus? What did this temptation communicate about God?
3. In Jim's message, you heard several examples of men who stood on the edge of a cliff, tempted to jump off ("Give up on my marriage/Go to a bar and hook up with someone/Escape shame by ending my life"). Where in your life are you standing on the edge of a cliff and considering jumping into something that you know God doesn't want you to do? Why is this so tempting? Why do you struggle to trust God and turn back from the edge?
4. This week, share your answer to the above question with someone you trust.
5. Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12 where God commands his angels to protect us. Satan avoids the context, which says that God's protection is for people who seek their shelter in Him. Standing on the cliff of temptation, what can you do to trust God again and enter back into the shelter and safety of God's protection?
6. What can you do to replace the messages on your paper that are not true with what God says about you?

Challenge:

1. Divide a piece of paper in two columns. In the first one list the messages you hear about you that other people left in your blank page (see question #1). In the second, list the truth you hear from God about who you really are.
2. This week, read Psalm 1 and Hebrews 3:12-13. For each scripture, what can you do in your life to step away from the cliff and return to God's protective shelter?
3. Sign up for Intentional Apprenticeship Training which starts next weekend. You will spend 5-weeks training the muscles of your faith to believe what God says about you and to learn to live it out in daily life. You will look at what has been written on your page, whether true or false. Then we will study Jesus' strategies of how we change the way we think and act. Go here for information and to sign up: www.flatironschurch.com/apprenticeship

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