



***Sermon-based small groups connect the week to the weekend!***

*Dig deeper into the talk each week, while getting connected, cared for and known. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life and do it with people just like you to support you on your journey.*

**Message Info:** Resisting the Resisters, 2/19/23 - Resistance makes life harder. It can come from friends, parents, peers, employers - it starts before we even take our first steps in the right direction. Giving into the cynicism is choosing defeat. But we can learn how to turn down those critical voices, and resist the resisters. (*Passages: John 9*)

**Discussion Questions:** Take your time and dig into these questions.

When have you experienced resistance? Have you ever shared good news and expected support, but instead received criticism? How did you feel? Maybe you can identify a time you played the resister yourself?

Read John 9. What stands out to you about this passage? Why?

In the aftermath of this miracle, all the pharisees could focus on was how it inconvenienced them. So wrapped up in their arguments, they totally missed the incredible. Why were they so determined to resist Jesus? Why do you think the blind man receiving his sight wasn't simply something to celebrate? While everyone else rejected him, Jesus got up-close and personal, and focused His love on the blind man.

More often than not, we're met with resistance when we try to do the right thing. But through the discouragement, Jesus is intimately close. We should strive to be the ones who celebrate the blind receiving sight, the small steps towards Jesus even when people don't have it all together, even if their struggles don't look like ours. Don't be a resister; celebrate every step taken towards love. Fight the good fight, but don't do it alone - find a faithful, faith-filled friend to encourage you. Finally, unlike the pharisees, be quick to admit your own blindness so you can see.

You are, and always will be, the object of God's love. What you receive from Him, is far greater than anything you will receive from anyone else. What changes can you make today to resist the resisters? How can you ensure you receive others with compassion and encouragement?

**Group Challenge:** Look for a new way to give or serve: maybe volunteering with a team at Grace, or considering the 10 for 10 challenge. Pray about it, and see where God leads you.