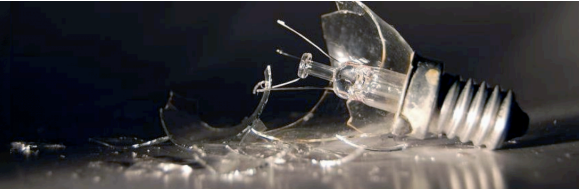## MODULE 2.2 HUMANITY

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time when you witnessed an epic fail. It may be something that happened to you or simply something that you observed.

EXAMINING THE PIECES

The story of humanity is the story of great honor and epic failure. In order to see these two very different realities, we will focus on a few very different passages - both of which point to this reality within humanity...and both of which point to the reality in each of our hearts.

First, let's study Psalm 8:3-9.

Read all of chapter 8.

How would you describe the overall tone of this passage?

In verses 1-2, what is David praising God for?

In verses 3-4, David contrasts the magnitude of God's creation with mankind. At first comparison, what does it leave all of us wondering? [
that we are but dust compared with the magnitude of creation]

But, in reality, God made mankind with incredible dignity. First, how do we compare with angels according to v. 5?

And, in verses 6-8, how do we stack up with all of the rest of God's creation?

David ends in v. 9 the same way he started this Psalm. In other words, what causes David to praise God in this way?
[*he could literally be saying, "it isn't the vastness of space or the magnitude of the mountains that lead me to worship, but the glory of man."*]

What's the point?

The story of humanity is one of great glory and great disgrace. it is a story of both honor and shame...a story of privilege and rebellion. And, at the heart of every human being lives these dual dichotomies. One one hand, we long for value, significance and dominion. And, because of how we were created, these, in and of themselves, are not bad desires.

But, also at the heart of every single one of us, we know something is wrong. We have taken our privileged position and used it for our own gain...we have taken the honor given to us and used it to simply glorify ourselves. And ultimately, instead of worshiping the one who gave us life, we worship and serve ourselves.

What's the problem?

The problem is that oftentimes we don't acknowledge that we are the problem. We blame circumstances, people, parents, and the "world". But, in all of our blaming, we miss how corrupt our own hearts are. And, it's no one's fault but ourselves. We are to blame.

EXAMINING THE PIECES CON'T

Read Romans 1:18-23

Instead of worshiping God for the splendor and grandeur of mankind, what has mankind done instead?

Now, turn over to Romans 3:9-18. Put these verses in your own words.

In comparison to Psalm 8, talk about epic fail. Besides what and who we worship, how else does this epic fail show up in both the world at large and in our very own lives as well?

Now, turn over to Hebrews 2 and read verses 5-9.

While this quote is from Psalm 8 and was originally about mankind in general, the author of Hebrews makes it ultimately about Christ. How does Christ fulfill what was supposed to be ours?

Look at the contrast in these verses. While all things are subject to Him (including death), he still died. If He was ruler of death, yet died, what does this say to you about the His death on your behalf?

SO WHAT?

Seeing as how all of us internally know that we were created with huge expectations, yet have failed miserably, how do you personally deal with the guilt of failure?

Our tendency is to run from the One we have so significantly let down. But, why is He the only One that we can literally run to with our guilt?

What would your life look like if you more consistently embraced his free forgiveness for you?

What's the solution?
The ultimate solution is only found in the perfect man - the one who lived up to what we were initially called to be. It is only as we look to Him that our hearts are transformed and we find grace and healing for a heart that has experience epic failure.

What's our response?
To recognize our inherent inclination to reject God by worshiping and serving ourselves and to embrace Christ afresh by believing that His ultimate work on the cross is the only thing that can change this sickness in our hearts.