

Review

Last week, we talked about Glory. For the glory of God!

Jesus waited. He didn't go see Lazarus but instead waited for him to die. Why? *Vs. 4, "It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

The challenge was to have a different perspective.

"Perspective makes all the difference! Do we see our problems from above or from the ground level?" R. Kent Hughes

-To have a divine perspective. It will all work out! Have hope!

Have faith in God to the glory of God and your joy!

It's easy to say, but when the rubber meets the road, and you're in the deep valleys of life, it's harder a lot harder to grasp.

Intro

Our story this morning is real. Real-time with people and real emotions. Real death, real tears, real sadness, and despair.

My goal this morning is to show you that in those moments, God is not only with you, walking with you... (Footprints in the sand) he allows himself to feel what you feel.

Empathy: The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Does God have empathy? I think we get he understands our feelings. He's God; All-knowing. But does he share our feelings?

Story

Vs. 17- 4 days.

Superstition.

The general belief was that the spirit of the deceased hovered around the body for three days in anticipation of some possible means of reentry into the body. But on the third day, it was believed that the body lost its color and the spirit was locked out.

Borchert, G. L. (1996). *John 1-11* (Vol. 25A, p. 354). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

-This leads to hopelessness and despair in the situation. 4th day.

-We don't know how true this is or if Mary and Martha were banking on this, but historical context can give meaning.
-Day 1, 2 and 3. Maybe he can come back. Day 4, no chance. It's over.

Vs. 18-19, Close to Jerusalem, threat on Jesus and followers

-But the use of the word "many" speaks to what an influential family they were.

Vs. 20-24, Faith.

-Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead. It was common and based in the old testament, so of course, she held to hope in this.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Psalm 49:15

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 25:8

I relate to this. In valley's we often hold to general promises of scripture.

Eeyore theology.

Jesus is taking her from a generalized understanding of God's promises to a personal faith in him.

DA Carson- *"Jesus' concern is to divert Martha's focus from an abstract belief in what takes place on the last day, to a personalized belief in him who alone can provide it."* Gospel According to John, D.A. Carson

Vs. 25-27

Martha doesn't change (Eeyore), but since we can look at this story and learn, let's dive a little deeper into what Jesus just said.

"I AM", ~ ego eimi. Reference to Exodus 3, where God says his name is "I am who I am"

a. Jesus is God- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

At this point in our text, 5 of the 7 "I am's" in John

1. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35

2. Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

-I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." John 8:24

-Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58

3. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9

4. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11

5. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, John 11:25

b. No other way! We all get Resurrected, but for many it will be into eternal death, eternal life is for those who trust in Jesus for salvation!

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

But the question still remains, does God feel with us?

God feels

Gen. 1 "saw it was good" He rejoiced at his creation / In Gen. 6 the Lord regretted making man and his heart was "deeply troubled", / Exodus 20:25, he is a jealous God, / Isaiah 42:14, like a woman in childbirth, *I cry out, I gasp and pant*" / Jeremiah 30:24, *The fierce anger of the Lord* / (Hosea 11:8, *all My compassion is aroused*" / Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with kindness"

The problem is, we see emotions as broken & unreliable. Which in our experience, to be fair. But can emotions be redeemed? Can emotions be true & reliable? We see them in God as reliable and true. But isn't God Impassible, which means unchanging? Yes, God never stops being God in his emotion. And when theologians say "without Passions"? It means he is never "overcome" or passionate outside of his character, which happens to us.

God Feels. And, when Jesus is on this earth, he is fully God and fully man, "hypostatic union", union of 2 natures. BUT, he also is the expressed imaged of God the Father.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and **the exact imprint** of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:1-3

KJV- "the express image of his person"

(Jesus is) the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, **who is the image of God**. 2 Corinthians 4:4

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
Colossians 1:15

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:6-9

Jesus is God, he feels and he is the expressed image of God the Father.

Read vs. 28-36

When God weeps...

Story of my dad and redemption.

Application

Read vs. 37- Believe

Look back at those defining moments and ask, God did you feel what I felt? Like redemption rain over you.

The next day, another pastor was sharing his story, and then I shared mine. The whole room wept as God redeemed all of us. How? Because in real-time with real people and real emotions, real death, real tears, real sadness and despair, our God was weeping with us. Our God wept.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Communion

Benediction.

Giving. Running behind, updates are now available.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13