

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 11TH-12TH, 2020 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

THE BEGINNING (GENESIS 3:8-15)

THE CREATOR GOD

Genesis 1-2 is the Creation Story, and we see the depth of God's ability to create.

- The universe, earth, water and land, the atmosphere, and vegetation. Species: 230,000 aquatic, 10,000 birds, 5,000 mammals, 13,500 reptiles, and millions of insects.

THE GREATEST WORK

After the beautiful and "good" handiwork of God, **the greatest thing He made was man**. Only humanity is made to resemble God and has the breath of God placed in them.

- **We are above environment and wildlife and have been given dominion over them, not to abuse them, but to enjoy them and glorify the Father.**

THE RELATIONAL GOD

God longed to have a relationship with us, His masterpiece. He walked with Adam and Eve and created a perfect environment for them to flourish and commune with Him.

- As most know, **this relationship was fractured because of the deception of Satan and the disobedience** of Adam and Eve.

THE PURSUIT (THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS)

IT WAS PREDICTED A LONG TIME AGO

Shortly after the creation of mankind, Satan tempted Eve; Adam let Eve persuade him, and the fall of man started through the introduction of sin.

- In Genesis 3, God foreshadows the coming of a Savior who will "strike the head" of Satan.

THE COURTSHIP OF MAN

From Adam all through the OT, **God sent messengers to try and get mankind to turn back to God and restore the fractured relationship** while also prophesying that God would send a Messiah, the Anointed One, to save His people.

- God knew that He'd have to personally intervene in the restoration process.

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED HIS GRANDEUR

In light of seeing what the Bible says about God, one must wonder why He would come to earth to not only live with mankind, but BE mankind.

- In the oddest way, God became one of us in the form of His Son Jesus (John 1:14). **He lived, gave us the perfect example, and died for us.** (Isaiah 53:4-8)

THE CRESCENDO (LUKE 24:1-12)

REPUTABLE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

3 very close supporters and followers of Jesus went on Sunday to perform proper burial rites for Jesus. When they approached the tomb, they noticed the millstone had been moved and the body was gone.

- As they were "perplexed," 2 angels appeared and asked, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?"

THEY HAD ALL MISSED THE LESSON

When the 3 women told the disciples about the resurrected Jesus, no one believed even though He had been telling them this day would come for a long time.

- Luke records that Peter jumped up to look for himself. Peter's impulsivity works out as his faith kicks in. Luke writes that Peter, "went away amazed..."

NOT JUST HERE, BUT WITH A MISSION

Humanity had become so broken that God came to personally give **the example of how to live, to die for the sins and brokenness of humanity, and to rise again in order to pour His spirit onto and into believers** so that they may have **eternal life**.

- **The pinnacle of history isn't the death of Jesus, but His resurrection!**

BUT WHY?

Even the most oblivious can recognize the brokenness and depravity of our world, and sometimes find it hard to agree that we are worth saving. **God sees our true value** and reaches out to us, a speck on the canvas of the universe, and longs for a relationship.

LET'S ZOOM IN (LUKE 24:13-24)

"NOW THAT SAME DAY..."

Think of a movie that flashes over to a different place during the same time. We have two disciples (not the 11) that were travelling to a town called Emmaus and they were talking about the weekend's events.

- As they were "discussing and arguing," Jesus showed up, but they were "prevented" from recognizing Him.

WHATCHA TALKING ABOUT?

I love how Jesus interacts with us. As these two men were talking, Jesus pops up and asks, "What is the dispute that you're having with each other as you are walking?"

- The two men looked at Jesus like He was dumb. Cleopas sarcastically asks, "Are you the only visitor who doesn't know what has happened?"

"WHAT THINGS?"

Jesus was leading them to identify the main object of the conversation (and the greater conversation of life), "Jesus of Nazareth, Who was a powerful prophet in action and speech before God and all people." Jesus wanted to get to the core of the men.

- **This is what He does: walks with us as He illuminates the deepest truths.**

"...WE WERE HOPING THAT HE WAS THE ONE"

The two men thought Jesus was the redeemer. **To redeem** means to liberate from slavery, to purchase back, to save. They were looking for a new Exodus for humanity.

- **Isn't this what we're looking for today? Jesus came, died, and opened the door for redemption, but we often miss it because of distractions!**

BUT THEY HAD MISSED IT TOO

As they tell incognito Jesus about the report from the women and other disciples who saw the tomb, we learn that they had also known the prophecies of the OT but missed them unfolding in front of them.

- They were travelling back to a place that was **safe and familiar. Do we miss God moving because of comfort and ease?**

INTIMACY (LUKE 24:25-35)

JESUS GETS A LITTLE SASSY

Christ had heard enough. The evidence from the OT and the events of the week should have been enough for the followers to have believed in the resurrection.

- Jesus walked the men through everything the scriptures said about Him. This is a sign of God's grace and compassion.

"STAY WITH US, BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST EVENING"

The men were enjoying the conversation with the unknown traveler, so as night was approaching, they offered Him a place to eat and sleep.

- At this point, the relationship changed. The men trusted the traveler, so much so that **they invited Him in to break bread and talk deeper (Rev. 3:20).**

THE GUEST BECOMES THE HOST

After Jesus was invited in, He was the one to break the bread, bless it, and give it away. It was at this moment "their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him."

- **It is through the willingness to hear the truth and the invitation of Jesus into our personal space that we start to recognize Who He is!**

"...BUT HE DISAPPEARED FROM THEIR SIGHT."

After realizing Who they were hanging out with, **they looked back and recalled that their hearts were stirring even when they didn't know it was Jesus.**

- They ran back to Jerusalem to share their story. **Jesus had opened their eyes and they wanted the others to know their testimony.**

A GOD THAT ZOOMS IN

- We have a God that is **powerful enough to create the universe, yet personal enough to meet us exactly where we are!**
- Not just personal, but **deeply in love with us**. Jesus came to be the ransom for our redemption; to buy back the connection with God that we had squandered.

WHAT PROHIBITS OUR CLARITY?

- Have we sought after the truth regardless of what we find?
- Are we overcome with fear, anger, frustration, or grief?
- Are we distracted, lethargic, or apathetic?
- Are we just trying to make it back to a place that's familiar and comfortable?

WHAT PROHIBITS OUR FREEDOM?

- **Have we invited Jesus into our most personal spaces?** Do we trust Him with the biggest things of life?
- Are we willing to have deep, intimate, and sometimes painful moments with God?
- Do we share our testimony of freedom so others may experience it as well?

CAN YOU SEE HIM NOW?

- God is walking next to all of us right now. **Are we paying attention?** Do we recognize Him? Will we invite Him in? Will we respond to the truth?
- Today Christians celebrate a risen Savior. **If you feel confused, lost, or broken, there is a personal God here to help.**