

MAIN POINT

We can learn a lot from the things that Jesus said, but often we need to take a closer look at His words. For example, in John 14:1 he tells us not to let our hearts be troubled. Yet at times things in life really knock us off balance. So how does it work? We can trust God when we face trouble by remembering the following things. First, God has a mission, and we are part of it. Though we live in a sinful world, God is on a mission of redemption and restoration. He invites us to join Him by being loving to those where we live, work, and play. At times, temporary loss is part of the plan for God's mission. We must remember that God is never surprised by what happens to us as if He didn't see it coming. God is at work on a solution before we even know there is a problem. The cross is the greatest example of temporary loss for the sake of the mission. Finally, Jesus reminds us that we are called to pray bold prayers in faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [Warm Up Question] What is one way your heart has been troubled recently?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. How do these verses describe hardship and trouble? In these verses, how did Paul respond to the trouble he was facing? What helped to renew him during these troubles?
3. What is God's mission and how are we called to be part of it? What does it look like to be part of God's mission in your day to day life?
4. How do people typically respond to loss or trouble? Why is it easy to believe God is absent when we experience trouble?
5. How was Jesus' death on the cross a necessary loss? Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God is never surprised by the events of your life? Why or why not?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is one way that Jesus is calling you to live your life "on mission" this week?
2. What is one temporary loss in your life that you believe God is using to better serve His mission?
3. What is the bold pray Jesus is asking you to pray this week? What might hold you back from praying it?