



Special Message: Pastor Chris Centola

Message - Living Unoffended At God

Sermon Big Picture - Looking into the experience of John the Baptist, we see what happens when things don't make sense in our suffering, and how Jesus both assures us, and brings us comfort.

Scripture: Matt 11:1-6

Examination

1. Looking at V. 1-3, what was John's situation? Why would John have been experiencing doubt about Jesus?
2. How does Jesus assure John that He is who He said He is? How must we do the same when we experience confusion, hardship, and pain?
3. What are the two reasons mentioned in the sermon that people today often find themselves confused, disheartened and even doubting God when things don't go the way they believed they would (or should)?
4. As we look at the account of the death of Lazarus (Jn Ch.11), how do we see both the sovereignty of God revealed, and also through Christ in His humanity, the compassion, sympathy, and love of God?
5. Looking at the account of John the Baptist's death (Matt 14:3-8), it seems senseless and unjust. How can we relate with this from situations we may experience? How does Jesus call us to faith in the midst of these things? (Matt 11:6)
6. How does the Bible's teaching of the final judgement become for us a means of comfort and peace? How does it help us to not seek vengeance even when human justice fails?
7. Overall, how has God revealed to us through these things both the big picture of His sovereignty, and also His nearness, His care, and His love? That He is not cold or indifferent to our suffering, but that in Christ, God has entered into our human experience with us?

Application

1. How does this passage of scripture meet us in our human experience? What can you relate to from John's experience?
2. How has this teaching from God's word ministered to you?

Personal Discipline

In a sin-filled world, hardship, pain and grief touch us all. So often it seems senseless, and difficult to see how any good could come from it. Remember that if God was working through the greatest act of sin in the history of the world, the execution of Christ, and through it brought about the salvation of billions of people, surely He is at work for good through our lesser suffering as well.