

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Four Truths to Anchor our Church in Uncertain Days

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
June 2, 2024



- **God is faithful in every season.**

Lamentations 3:19-26 (NLT) “The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. ²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: ²² The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!’ ²⁵ The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.”

- **Our mission remains unchanged.**

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT) “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

John 17:18 (NLT) “Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.”

Zechariah 8:13 (NLT) “Among the other nations, Judah and Israel became symbols of a cursed nation. But no longer! Now I will rescue you and make you both a symbol and a source of blessing. So don't be afraid. Be strong, and get on with rebuilding the Temple!”

- **Our unity as the Church is mission critical.**

John 17:20-23 (NLT) “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”

- **It's still all about Jesus!**

Colossians 1:15-23 (NLT) Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ **Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.** ¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. ²³ **But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.**

Big Idea: Put Jesus first in everything.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

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June 2, 2024

- 1) What has God revealed to you through the **Gospel Reading Challenge** this week? What have you learned or been able to apply?
- 2) What did you find challenging or helpful about this message? Share any insights or questions it raised for you.
- 3) Read Lamentations 3:19-26. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us? How does this describe God’s faithfulness?
- 6) Read Colossians 1:15-23. What does this passage tell us about Christ? What does it tell us about us? How does Jesus embody the faithfulness of God?
- 7) What does it mean for Jesus to be “first in everything” in your life and the life of the Church?
- 8) How does Jesus being first impact our commitment to make disciples of Jesus and work for unity in the Church? Matthew 28:18-20 and John 17:20-23.
- 9) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? What action steps is God asking you to take today?



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