

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. Media

1. Katie
2. Pam
3. Dee
4. Cjaisey
5. Cjaisey baby (background)

II. Stories of Presence

1. What does it mean to be present, for you?
2. Wesley Brothers
 - (1) John Wesley
 - i. Him & his brother were founder of Methodism
 - ii. John poured his life into his ministry
 - iii. 1751 (48 yo) - slipped on ice & broke his ankle...met Molly Vazille.
 - iv. The two were married 8 days later. That's not what was interesting.
 - v. What was interesting, no mention in his journal among all his treasured thoughts.
 - vi. He was now responsible for a marriage and 4 children.
 - vii. 25k miles on horseback preaching 40k sermons
 - viii. John - "I cannot understand how a...preacher can answer God...to preach one sermon, or travel one day less, in a married than a single state."
 - ix. He believed his vocational legacy, trumped his family legacy.
 - x. Molly tried to travel w/ him at first. But stopped after she grew continually ill. But John, never slowed down...never adjusted his pace...not even to attend to his sick wife.
 - xi. Finally, on one occasion she fell ill...he received word she was on her deathbed...he arrived at 1:00a at her bedside...and when her fever lifted (within an hour)...he left back on road.
 - xii. She ended up dying...he found out a few days after the fact.
 - (2) Charles Wesley
 - i. Charles left his brother once he became married and to be a husband and father.
 - ii. He flat out changed his ambition.
 - iii. Still wrote 6,000 hymns, preached many sermons and wrote countless other poems, letters and books.
3. God Is With Us

Isa. 41:10: "...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

 - (1) Christian Smith
 - i. **Moralistic** - That the primary desire of God is behavior. Therefore, God is like a heavenly referee waiting to throw a flag. The chief concern of God and the Bible is our conduct.
 - ii. **Therapeutic** - That the primary goal of God is to make our lives healthier and happier. Therefore, God is like therapist in the sky at our disposal.
 - iii. **Deism** - The default proximity of God is far away, not present. Therefore, God is like an eternal absentee parent, not with us, only involving Himself when necessary.
 - ★ This is the one we want to address today



#2 - THE LORD IS ALWAYS PRESENT

I. God Can Seem Silent, But Is Never Absent

1. He is present in betrayal

(1) Gen. 37:1-8

(2) Gen. 37:18-24,28,30-33,36

Gen. 39:1-2a - *"Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph..."*

2. He is present in accusal

(1) Gen. 39:3-6a

(2) Gen. 39:6b-10

(3) Gen. 39:14,19-20

Gen. 39:21-23 - *"But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed."*

3. He is present in denial

(1) Gen. 40:1-4

(2) Gen. 40:5-8

(3) Gen. 40:14-15

(4) Gen. 40:21-22

Gen. 40:23 - *"Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."*

4. He is present in renewal

(1) Gen. 41:1

(2) Gen. 41:9-15

Gen. 41:16 - *"Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."*

Gen. 41:39-40 - *"Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you."*



#3 - A LEGACY OF PRESENCE

{God the Father is with you through God the Son, by God the Spirit.}

Isa. 41:10: "...fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I. Implication of Our Legacy

1. If God Is With You, Then...our fear is futile

- (1) Do you believe you're alone?
- (2) which then means for our kids...
 - i. Most studies are in agreement, the fear/anxiety/depression are inversely proportional to presence of their parents.
 - ii. The more you're around...the less fear they're going to have.
 - iii. "I have to figure this all alone" (this is different than figuring it *on your own*)

2. If God Is With You, Then...our frailty is fortified

- (1) Do you believe God abhors weakness?
 - i. His strength is made perfect in our weakness?
- (2) Our weakness is not a liability, but opportunity to see God work in our lives, minds and hearts.
- (3) which then means for our kids...
 - i. Our presence fortifies the weaknesses our kids have at the different stages of their lives.
 - ii. There are things they don't know how to do, don't know how to respond to, don't know how to feel about...and you have to be around to ask them questions about their day, about their life in order to fortify those areas of their life.

3. If God Is With You, Then...our falling is finite

- (1) For those in Christ, your pain has an expiration date. It has a clock.
- (2) which then means for our kids...
 - i. we do let them feel consequences...but only to a point.
 - ii. Being present, means the learn to fall within the safety net of our home and provision.

II. Implementation of Our Legacy

1. A Legacy of Presence Means Reverse Engineering Our Ambitions

- (1) Heroes of the past
 - i. Are you going to be John or Charles?
 - ii. George Mallory (Mt. Everest) - "*Dearest (Ruth), you must know that the spur to do my best is you and you again...I want more than anything to prove worthy of you.*"
 - iii. He left a legacy worthy of history's remembrance...but what about his children?



- iv. George's son, John - "I would so much rather of known my father than to have grown up in the shadow of a legend, a hero, as some people perceive him to be."
 - v. The mountain was there...but so was George's son.
- (2) Legacy produces a currency exchange (what will they treasure most)
 - i. Physical provision vs spacial provision
 - (3) Legacy has significant bearing on ambition (what will you treasure most)
 - i. What job to take
 - ii. How late to work
 - iii. Everyday is take your son/daughter to work day
 - (4) Legacy allows us to be present even if we're not proficient.
 - i. Coaching, homework, etc.
2. **A Legacy of Presence Means Laying Down Roots**
 - (1) We don't just lay down ambitions, we also lay down roots.
 - (2) How long does it take to start to feel like a place is home? (5-7 years)
 - (3) Confirm all movement by the Spirit, through the church, for your children.
 3. **A Legacy of Presence Means Quality, Not Just Quantity**
 - (1) Being around...but not available (next room drunk; in the garage tinkering w/ hobbies).

#4 - CONCLUSION

I. God's Presence In The Gospel

Matthew 28:18-20 - *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

