

Good Friday

I. Camp Deer Run Story

a. Story

- i. Camp Counselor on a cookout at a cookout site that was at the top of a hill
- ii. Asked to stay back and put the fire out
- iii. As the kids were heading back to camp, one of the counselors said, "whatever you do, don't start running!"
- iv. Well, I was 18, and thought really highly of myself and I was dumb
- v. Stayed back, put the fire out and started back to camp
- vi. Before I knew it, my fear got the best of me and I took off . . . RUNNING!
- vii. Got to the bottom of the hill and luckily no one was around to see how scared I was
- viii. Felt so much relief and made my way back to my group

b. Thought about this event in my life many times!

- i. Question: Have you ever made it through something only to realize you missed the journey? OR MISSAD THE LESSONS THAT YOU NEEDED

c. What is Good Friday?

- i. Today, we find ourselves "celebrating" Good Friday.

1. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.
2. Jesus was arrested yesterday.
3. Today, he would have been sentenced to death and carried his cross through the streets of Jerusalem to the site of his execution on the cross.
4. Today is a somber day, but is also a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, and all of humanity.

d. Why does Good Friday matter? What does it teach us?

- i. Life is full of "already, not yet" moments, moments of living in tension, living "in-between."

1. Metaphor – "It's like me running down that hill, knowing I need to stop, but not knowing how to. I'm caught in-between.

2. Examples of "in-between" human realities.

- a. ~~Caught between starting a degree program and not yet finishing the degree.~~
- b. Caught between saving money for something and not having enough to make the purchase.
- c. Caught between developing feelings for someone and not yet asking them out on a date
- d. Caught between emotions of both happiness and sadness
- e. Caught between a health diagnosis and the not yet treatment that is necessary
- f. Caught between breaking old patterns in a relationship and desperately wanting to live in the new patterns that aren't yet established
- g. Caught between being old enough where your friends don't want to help you move and not old enough to have the money to pay movers
- h. Caught between losing a job and not yet finding a new one
- i. THE DISCIPLES AND FOLLOWERS OF JESUS FIND THEMSELVES

- i. Caught between death of a friend and savior and having to wait to see if what he said was going to come true, that he was going to be raised from the dead and actually show the world he is the messiah they have been waiting on

- ii. Good Friday is when we learn to live into this tension – the "in-between."

1. We learn to face reality.

GOOD FRIDAY
→

- a. We learn to wait.
- b. We learn to grieve.
- 2. We learn to slow down and stop running!
 - a. Yes, we are afraid.
 - b. Yes, we are sad.
 - c. Yes, we are disappointed.
 - d. Yes, we are confused.
 - e. AND . . . Yes, Easter (Resurrection) is coming.
 - i. Resurrection is coming, but . . . first, we wait, we grieve, we face reality.
- e. The journey from Palm Sunday to Easter teaches us three things.
 - i. Jesus' Crucifixion - Teaches us how to die with ~~humility~~ **PURPOSE**
 - ii. Jesus' Resurrection - Teaches us how to rise in power.
 - iii. Good Friday - Teaches us to how to live in the "in-between."
 - 1. Hope is on the spectrum of feelings and emotions that also includes disappointment.
 - a. Can't dull some emotions and not others. Must embrace all of them.
 - b. Jesus reminds his disciples that they will experience this.

THIS IS SO HARD. Some OF us want TO NUMB OUT... OR TAKE CONTROL THROUGH ACTION

i. John 16: 25-33 (SLIDE - ESV) 25-33

1. "In this world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

a. We know that this is true, but it is still so difficult to understand or even comprehend.

- f. As I was preparing for Good Friday, one of our Pastors, Mitzi sent me an IG post that I thought painfully and appropriately expressed the reality of the truth that we will have trouble and we are caught in the in-between. (Warning, this is a vulnerable hard story)
- g. e_brownphoto – Eric Brown

i. 5 years ago tonight, Ruth and I were going to bed, alongside Brennan and Abbey, in Pearl's room. We had all moved our mattresses in there the week before, as we waited with Pearl to finish her final hours with us. All 5 of us. Every step of the way, it was always all 5 of us.

We knew that the following day, hospice was coming to turn off the ventilator. We hadn't a clue how to tell her siblings what was coming or how to have them present. We had no clue how to tell ourselves we were going to do it. And hospice had no clue how to actually do this impossible yet sacred job they agreed to do. All of it was a disaster.

A disaster that I still can't really bring myself to talk about. I'm not sure I'll ever really know how to talk about it. Brennan asked me a day or so later if I thought we made the right decision. I told him I'm not sure these sorts of things are the kind of thing you ever make peace with. I suspect that's the case, and I'm often haunted by all of it.

And I'm not sure parents ever come back from these sorts of things. You might keep moving eventually, but really only in a different direction. And you may not move at all.

5 years. Man, every sensory memory is still so raw and I can recall every moment of that week. And it's not lost on me what my community back in Nashville is going through this week. Though I'll not be sharing more here, we do have loved ones whose lives were forever changed yesterday. These are our people. My heart breaks, and I long for Shalom. It won't be found here, I know. But so much just hurts so deeply. Pain stacked on pain. Noise on top

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of noise. Such sweet people, who are now changed forever and faced with impossible futures they had no say so in.

All, during Lent. Coming up on days when churches will callously ask death where its sting is. Proclaiming victory over what? You've left no room for brokenness before jumping to victory. Evangelicals, man. Skipping to Easter as if Friday and Saturday are just prep days for the big game. They'll miss it, and hurting people will be disoriented more.

h. "You've left no room for brokenness before jumping to victory."

i. So, what do we do in the painful in-between?

1. We sit in the brokenness.
2. We stop running and pause
3. We allow ourselves to feel.
4. We observe what we are experiencing.

TONIGHT, we ARE NOT going to jump to victory, just yet!

i. Prayer Moment

i. If you find yourself in this season . . .

worship / Pray w/ someone

Let's Sing!

CRY OUT

II. Living in the "In-Between"

a. II Corinthians 4: 7 – 18 (SLIDE – ESV)

b. Picture of a tight rope walker (SLIDE with a picture of a tight rope walker in between buildings)

i. Seems like a small gust of wind could do major damage.

c. Reminder

i. Jesus' Crucifixion - Teaches us how to die with ~~humility~~ PURPOSE.

ii. Jesus' Resurrection - Teaches us how to rise in power.

1. Not worldly power that . . .

iii. Good Friday - Teaches us to how to live in the "in-between" . . . with hope.

d. Jesus was the very best at living in tension.

i. Snapshot about How Jesus Handled Death and Life – Exactly where we find ourselves.

1. Story of Lazarus

a. John 11: 17 – 44 (SLIDE – ESV) 17-44

i. How do we see Jesus live when faced with pain and grief – exactly where we find ourselves right now.

1. Jesus is not just a teacher, he is a friend.

2. Jesus takes action.

3. Jesus shows emotion – compassion.

a. He shows frustration, he is indignant.

4. He moves toward his friend and sets him free from the shackles of death.

a. JESUS WANTS TO SET YOU FREE.

i. Do you want to be free?

ii. If so, today is the day to believe and put your trust in Jesus.

iii. Maybe you have put your trust in Jesus and you want to be baptized, we'd love to help you with that too.

JESUS KNEW THAT HIS FRIEND LAZARUS HAD DIED . . . we pick up the story in verse 17.

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- ii. Living in the tension of the in between is hard, but when we do so, 2 things can happen.
 - a. We model the posture of Jesus.
 - i. Paul describes his posture in a letter to the church in Philippi
 - a. Philippians 2:12-18 (SLIDE – ESV)
 - b. We remember what he promises us.
 - i. Here is what he promises us.
 - 1. John 15: 1 – 11 (SLIDE – ESV)
- e. Church, Our answer is not merely a how or a what, but a who!
 - i. JESUS – our savior who shows up as a man and shows us to to die, how to rise again, and HOW TO LIVE!
 - 1. Jesus is the answer. He is the way, the truth, and the life.
 - a. Jesus is coming for us. He moves toward the brokenhearted. He moves toward the ones in pain.
 - b. Jesus moves toward death, which is why we are sitting here on Good Friday.
 - c. The veil was torn because his spirit busted through it to get to us!
 - d. Jesus was different.
 - i. Tom Holland (Historian) sums it up like this.
 - 1. “The notion that a god might have suffered torture and death on a cross was so shocking as to appear repulsive. Familiarity with the biblical narrative of the Crucifixion has dulled our sense of just how completely novel a deity Christ was. In the ancient world, it was the role of gods who laid claim to ruling the universe to uphold its order by inflicting punishment – not to suffer it themselves.”
 - 2. This evening as we wait in the brokenness, we wait just long enough so we don’t miss the learning that is necessary on the journey, but we don’t wait too long where we miss the freedom that Jesus offers us because of His suffering.
 - 3. We know Easter is coming and we wait . . . we wait with the expectation of those who have hope.

III. Communion

FELLOWSHIP DALLAS, I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

- a. The last supper that Jesus had with his disciples was a Passover meal
- b. At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted Communion with His disciples with the bread and the cup.
- c. This meal included matzah, the unleavened bread of affliction ~~AND WINE~~, *FRUIT OF THE VINE*
- d. Traditionally, this includes matzah that is pierced to represent the nails in hands and feet, and is striped to represent the lashes ~~40~~ 1 that he received, and broken which points to the fulfillment of scripture reference in Isaiah 53
- e. ~~The meal would have also included wine which represents the blood of Jesus~~
- f. We eat the bread and fruit of the vine and remember the death of Jesus and the life he offers us.
- g. Fellowship Dallas, I want to welcome you to the Table of the Lord
 - i. I want you all to know that all are welcome at Jesus’ table.

TONIGHT

→ would you STAND AND GO GET THE ELEMENTS THAT ARE @ THE TABLES IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM.

→ ON THE WAY TO THE TABLE, ^{AND BACK}
LOOK AROUND AND NOTICE THAT ^{TO YOUR SEAT}
YOU ARE NOT ALONE; THAT YOU
ARE A PART OF A BODY,
A GROUP OF IMPERFECT PEOPLE WHO
NEED JESUS.

~~the church~~

① TONIGHT, WE EAT THE
BREAD THAT REPRESENTS THE
BODY OF CHRIST.
→ "TAKE AND EAT."

② NOW, WE DRINK OF THE
FRUIT OF THE VINE THAT
REPRESENTS JESUS' BLOOD.
→ THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Pray

