

Kingdom: People of Hope

March 15, 2020

Scriptures: John 16:33; 1 Peter 4:12-13; Revelation 21:1-5

Bottom Line: We expect victory but we are not surprised by struggles

“We live between two trees, in a world that is drenched with God.”
- Rob Bell

If I've got God's Spirit in me, if I believe in Jesus and want to follow Him, why do I still struggle with sin? Am I doing something wrong?

The Now but Not Yet Kingdom

Jesus teaches that we're living in the overlap between two ages. Jesus has come once and begun His new Kingdom, but He has not yet returned again to restore this world into the new Heaven and Earth.

Even though we have been made new spiritually through Jesus, we're still affected by our old self: we still have our old narratives, memories, and habits.

Living in the Tension

Lots of Christians live on the extremes: waiting for heaven, or expecting everything good in this life. Both end up disappointed. The truth is more complicated. It requires that we live in between.

- We are a people of hope who expect victory
- Everything we do here and now for God will become a part of New Creation
- We are not surprised by struggle, and our struggles help show others that God doesn't require perfection.

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LISTENING

Have someone in your group answer one (or more) of these questions:

- What is your biggest fear?
- What is one regret you have in your life?
- How have you experienced God's goodness in a tangible way?

After they share, tell them what you heard.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. How has COVID-19 impacted you?
3. "Prosperity has a way of muffling our need for change." What are your thoughts on this?
4. Lots of people trend towards one extreme (wanting God to give them all the good things in this world), or the other (just waiting for "heaven"). Which do you trend towards? What does a healthy balance look like?
5. How would you answer the question that was asked near the top of the sermon outline?

HUDDLE UP

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions together.

1. How will hope shape your week?
2. Do you allow yourself the space to lament to God? Will that be a part of your week?

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