

Sunday Announcements

- Don't forget to send me pictures of sleeping children....and adults
- Elders meeting early this week. Info on Wed in the Connect and Bible study
- It's impossible to
 - a) cancel church or
 - b) postpone services.

Our church services have exponentially multiplied:

- CGs are meeting more often
- Deacons are ministering to our seniors (Matt Smith and I met on Friday)
- You are serving your families, neighborhoods, schools and workplaces
- Ill - Alysa Faith, Chris Wilson's daughter – Bob and Linda Sproles's granddaughter, came to faith this weekend.
- This Friday at we will celebrate Good Friday on YouTube and FB Live. It is important to keep the Christian calendar and that doesn't depend on a corporate or home gathering.
- Next Sunday, Easter Sunday, we are going to celebrate communion. Oh yes. I want to encourage you to get grape juice and bread this week and next Sunday, every person, every couple and every family will participate in your homes.
 - If you cannot get to the store, call the church office and one of our deacons will get it and bring it to your home.
 - If you need direction call the church office or if you can contact an elder directly, call an elder.
 - It's going to be an incredible moment and it will make Easter Sunday 2020 all-the-more memorable for you and your family.

Before Resurrection Sunday, today is Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem. That's our focus today.

Setting Our Faces to Jesus
Luke 9:51

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

First: See Jesus Living Before He Dies

How hard it must have been for Jesus to think of others when he fully understood what he was going to endure

And yet he did.

- Jesus invested in the disciples. 1-6
- He fed 5,000 10-17
- Peter confessed Jesus 18-20
- Jesus prophesied his death 21-22
- Challenged his followers 23-27
- Was Transfigured 28-36 - 'departure' / 31 – exodus
- Healed a demon-possessed boy 37-43
- Again, foretold his death 43-45
- Settled two arguments 46-50
- Setting his face to Jerusalem 51
- Demonstrating grace to opposition 52-56
- Warning followers 57-62

For years, we've heard the mantra: JOY = Jesus, Others, You.

It's true. If we follow Jesus' model, we discover a life of health, even as he endures his own suffering

The Corporation for National and Community Service reports that those who volunteer for 100 hours per year are 33% less likely "to report bad health" in comparison to those who don't volunteer, with benefits included reduced risk of hypertension, mortality and more.

*Wash your hands and say your prayers
Because Jesus and germs are everywhere*

- Wash your hands – Live wisely
- Say your prayers – Trust Jesus

- Jesus and germs are everywhere – Act boldly

Even on the cross, he lived until he died! (fulfilling Scripture, forgiving, giving Mary to John, etc)

We are all going to die. Don't die while you die. Live before you die.

First: See Jesus Living Before He Dies

Second: See Jesus Dying for Us to Live

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

In a crisis, people often ask 'why' and 'how,' how can God be good and sovereign when people are suffering.

It's one thing to experience suffering. It's another thing to know of suffering beforehand and allow it to happen. God is exactly guilty of that! And if you will stop and think it through, you don't want to live in any other universe.

It does beg the question, why did Jesus, in the midst of his life, set his face toward Jerusalem where he knew he would die?

Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

- a) We are all dead people walking under the wrath of God
- b) Jesus placed himself between us and God's wrath
- c) We walk away free because he did not

Why didn't God just change his mind and forget it all? We have a God who has made us great promises. We don't ever want God to change his mind about anything.

Before the world began, the Trinity figured this out in an omniscient way.

- Only an eternal God could pay an infinite debt.
- But only a human could die.
- So Jesus came as the God-human, dying in our stead and paying our sin debt.

First: See Jesus Living Before He Dies

Second: See Jesus Dying for Us to Live

Third: See Jesus Living, Dying and Living for us to Live, Die and Live

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,

he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

What is God doing? God is calling us to live, die and live. Let me tell you how to do that

- a) well and
- b) forever!

1 – Repentance

Luke 13:1-5 - There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

We are all going to die. You don't need Covid-19 to kill you. You are always one heartbeat away from death. Covid-19 has just made you more aware of the potential of your death.

2 – Reliance

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 - We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

We are constantly looking for functional gods to save us. God will not let that happen. Why? He loves us too much. No other god can save us. Only God can raise you from the dead. God strips them all away.

Hebrews 13:5-6 - Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

3 – Righteousness

Hebrews 12:6 & 10-11 - The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” . . . He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

4 – Reward

2 Corinthians 4:17 - *This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

All creation will not simply be restored.
It will be restored better for having been cursed.

5 – Reminder

Philippians 3:10 - *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...*

All suffering reminds us that Jesus has suffered for us. He has suffered for us so that we will, one day, never suffer again.

Conclusion:

Here is our text again –

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

Luke 9:51

Let us set our faces toward Jesus!

Community Groups:

- 1 – What has been most difficult about this isolation, exile?
- 2 – What has been most joyful about this isolation, exile?
- 3 – How have you seen God work in this pandemic?
- 4 – Review Luke 9 and see all the things Jesus did on the way to Jerusalem
- 5 – Discuss how this must have been difficult and why?
- 6 – How is ‘Jesus, Others, You’ a valid mantra in a pandemic like this?
- 7 – According to Mark 10:45, why did Jesus come?
- 8 – Why didn’t God just forget about our sin debt?

Using the mentioned texts, discuss these questions:

9 – How does God use suffering to bring about repentance?

10 – How does suffering cause us to rely on God?

11 – How is righteousness the result of suffering?

12 – How does God reward our suffering?

13 – How is suffering a reminder of what Jesus has done?

14 – How can God use this text to encourage you during this crisis?