



HERITAGE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Missional Community Discussion Week of April 9th

Opening thought:

When life don't go as expected, how many times do we accuse God for our discontentment? When things don't work out and nothing seems to be going as planned, have you ever found yourself blaming God or getting angry with him or even walking away? If we are taught to believe in a personal God who is all-knowing and all-powerful and loves and cares for us, how do we withstand the pressures and temptations to throw in the towel in those difficult seasons?

Questions to discuss:

1. What are some things in your life that you are presently praying about? How long have you been waiting for an answer from God?
2. "Trusting God makes our lives much easier." Is this a true or False statement and how do you base your answer?
3. Have you ever known someone to hold on to their faith in spite of a very difficult circumstance or season in life? How did that person (s) actions and faith influence your relationship with God?
4. Has there been a time when you have been frustrated with how a situation went and you felt that God could have done more? What did you do?
5. Our greatest moments are not always on the victor stand when life is awesome but sometimes in the darkest of moments when we are being pressed on every side (or hanging on a cross) and we hold on to our faith even when it looks like God has forgotten us. Do you believe that God can use the difficult times for HIS Glory as well? If so, how?
6. Are there issues you are presently facing where you know that you need to take your hands off of the steering wheel and give it over to God? If so, what is one thing you can do this week to begin to open your hands to your heavenly Father? How can this group support you?

Looking ahead:

Life happens, but God can be still be trusted. When we open our hands and surrender, instead of clenching our fists in anger, we become a candidate for HIS life-giving grace and mercy. When we are willing to trust God, it opens the door for God to do the greatest work in and through us.

Challenge:

41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." 43 And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:41-43 NLT

Read through the New Testament in 2017 - This week's reading - John 3-7



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April 9, 2017

SERMON SERIES: Characters of the Passion

Today's character: One of the criminals crucified with Jesus

Today is known as "Palm Sunday." It is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem one week prior to His resurrection (Matthew 21:1-11). Jesus's entrance into the city would be the culmination of His journey to the cross. He had come to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and this was the appointed time and place to demonstrate His love toward us and secure our salvation. Palm Sunday marked the beginning of what is often called "Passion Week" which were the final seven days of Jesus's earthly ministry.

It is easy to be confused with the connection between _____ and GOD

It is easy for Discontentment with life to lead to _____ with God

There were _____ criminals crucified alongside of Jesus

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." "One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Luke 23:34-41

THE CRIMINAL: If an innocent man who is suffering like a guilty man could maintain his faith in God, so could a man who was _____ for his own wrong doing.

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43

God's _____ for us and his thoughts about us aren't always being reflected in what is _____ in our lives

By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last. Luke 23:44-46

Regardless of my circumstances, God can be _____!

GOD SENT _____ TO BRING US _____.

Bottom Line: Life _____ but God can be trusted.

Don't let your _____ with life lead to Discontentment with God.

What do you hear God saying to you today? How will you respond?

The Lord's Supper: A time for believers to remember the death of Jesus Christ, and his suffering on the cross for our sins. It is also a time to look ahead in anticipation of His second coming.