

Rossville Church of Christ

Doorpost Devo



August 18, 2024



Encouragement from God's Word

What I Love About Jesus: But We Do See Jesus

When we look at the world, what do we see? Depending on where we are looking, we will likely see evil, chaos, suffering, loneliness, hopelessness, and despair in many corners of the world. Perhaps that's what we see when we reflect on our own lives as well. With all of this in our line of vision, it is hard to believe the popular cliché that "God is in control." Even if we know it to be true intellectually, emotionally it is hard to swallow. On a visceral level, it feels as if nothing is in control sometimes.

Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

1 Timothy 6:3-21 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

Matthew 6:19-34 Each Night

Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

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Discussion Questions

1 Timothy 6:3-21

Discussion Question #1: Why is the love of money so dangerous?

Discussion #2: What is the man or woman of God to pursue rather than earthly treasures? What does this look like in real life?

Discussion #3: What do we learn about the worthiness of God in this passage? How does this help us to be free from greed and the love of money?

Matthew 6:19-34

Discussion #1: What does Jesus mean when he says we cannot be devoted to two masters? Why does he say this and why is this important for us?

Discussion #2: What are treasures in heaven? How do we lay up treasures in heaven while on earth?

Discussion #3: How can we be reminded to seek the kingdom first? What has God done for us to help us seek him and trust in him?

Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--for richly providing for us with your abundant wisdom and grace.
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- Lord, We Praise You--for being totally worthy, powerful, and majestic. We praise you as the one who dwells in unapproachable light.
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- Lord, Help Us--to prioritize your work and your kingdom in our lives.

Or, we think, if this is what it's like for God to be in control, I don't really like his version of control. What I love about Jesus is that he doesn't eliminate all of these struggles and sufferings, but he does provide us hope and clarity in the midst of them. Hebrews 2:8b-15 shares some powerful insight about what Jesus brings to a chaotic world:

"Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will sing your praise." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

The Hebrews author admits that at present we do not see everything in subjection to God. Certainly, we as humans do not feel as if everything is in subjection to us. But in the meantime, we do see Jesus. We see the one who lowered himself and took on humanity to suffer what we suffer, to taste death on our behalf. Notice the logic. We don't see everything under control, but we can have confidence in God's control and power because we do see Jesus. Jesus is God's answer to suffering. That answer is not a theological abstract or treatise. The answer is not well-wishes and distant sympathy. The answer is the living God who clothes himself with weakness and suffers with us. The answer is the one who did for us what we could not do for ourselves so that he could destroy the power of death. He triumphs over death by submitting himself unto death. Yet, death could not conquer him. Death had no power over his sacrificial, self-giving love. He embraced death, suffering, and chaos and yet won the victory.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

So as we look at our own encounters with death, suffering, and chaos, we may not see clear answers. We may not see a way out. We may not see a way to get control of the situation. But we do see Jesus. We do see the one who offers us solid hope and confidence for life through death. We do see the one who understands our pain on the deepest level. We do see the one who is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. We do see the one who does not consider himself above experiencing our weakness and sorrow. We see the king of the world who willingly became treated like a slave so that we might experience freedom. This is our Lord and Master. This is our Savior and brother. I hope, then, that we see Jesus all the more and grow in love and trust as he opens our eyes to his glorious light shining through the darkness.

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