

Sweetbitter – Where is God When We Hurt? August 8-11

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? **Circle Two Opportunity...**

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Housekeeping:

The next 2 weeks, Sundays and LC (the Lord willing) we will look at the 3rd Supernatural Rebellions

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV) (pew Bible page 987)

Choices to grieve obediently in step with the Spirit

1. Choose to grieve in step with God.

- ➔ sadness of our loss of loved ones
- ➔ sadness of God’s heart because death was not God’s design
- ➔ sadness with God’s hope, v. 13
- ➔ It is a Spirit-led balance to genuinely grieve without being consumed

2. Look for God’s Presence and Activity.

- ➔ there are no exceptions to God’s Romans 8:28 promise
Romans 8:28 (ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
- ➔ intentionally search for God beyond the emotions
Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV) ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- ➔ people should marvel at Christ, not wonder why God did this

3. Focus on hope in the grief - Sweetbitter.

- ➔ authentic, truthful hope and sadness
hope: confident assurance God is in charge & will fulfill His promises
- ➔ ultimately all about TRUST in all-powerful, all-loving God
John 14:1–3 (ESV) ¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- ➔ Jesus’ resurrection is a peek at our hope as we grieve, v. 17-18

The Lazarus situation provides a deeper look at God’s bigger purposes in loss...

It LOOKED like the unplanned action was a distraction

It APPEARED that the unexpected excursion was a diversion

It SEEMED to be a disruption but turned out to be an eruption of a powerful work of God

It would set the trajectory for the Cross and resurrection.

John 11:1–44 (ESV)

- † a truly terrible crisis, vs. 1-4

† Jesus' baffling response with Heavenly Realm purpose, vs. 5-17

† Sorrow, questions, accusations, without capacity to grasp God's purposes, vs. 18-32

† God's heart, vs. 33-37

Psalm 34:6-8, 14-18 (ESV) ⁶This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

¹⁴Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

† God's heart AND God's purposes AND God's power, vs. 38-44

† God's work, divided responses to one of THE greatest miracles

➔ Some put their trust in Jesus because of the miracle, v. 45

➔ Some rebel against God and reject Jesus in spite of the miracle, vs. 45-54; 12:9-10

Takeaways...