

Small Group

Job 29, John 14

Sunday October 1, 2023

1. Short opening prayer (one person or popcorn style prayer)
2. Group sharing time (time for everyone to talk about what is going on and how they are)
3. Go over the sermon
 - a. Can anyone summarize the sermon?
 - i. John tells a story in chapter 2 about Jesus turning an immense amount of water into fine wine. The story is most likely not meant to amuse or amaze us. It is meant to inspire us to believe in this Jesus just as it did for the disciples at the end of the scripture from John 2. This goes perfectly with the book we have been reading, *Crazy Love*. God has the amazing and crazy love for us. What John is doing is inviting us to have an amazing and crazy love for God.
 - b. Read Job 29
 - i. By reading this chapter, what was Job's life like before so many things went wrong? Go line by line and point out the good things Job enjoyed.
 - ii. Can you identify with Job any?
 - What losses, hurts, and hardships have you gone through in your life?
 - iii. As a note at this point in the group time ... don't be trying to look for the bright side or say that the bad things that have happened are God's will. It's ok and good to acknowledge that some things happen to us that hurt, leaves scars, and maybe even break our spirits.
 - iv. Can you think of other Biblical characters who have been in Job's shoes? They wished things were better or they longed for the good old days? Discuss.
 - King David when he committed adultery and later in life when he counted the armed forces losing trust in God.
 - All the Israelites when they left Egypt and while they trekked around for forty years ... they thought life was actually better and easier back in Egypt.
 - Each time the Israelites were in exile, they longed for the good old days of when they could worship at the temple, etc.
 - v. It's normal to long for the good old days
 - Talk for a minute about how we do this in church
 - What did the "good old days" look like for this church or your old church?

- c. Read John 13:33 and 14:1-14

John 13:33 (MSG)

33 "Children, I am with you for only a short time longer. You are going to look high and low for me. But just as I told the Jews, I'm telling you: 'Where I go, you are not able to come.'

- Jesus told his disciples the bad news that from the beginning the plan had been for him to go to Jerusalem, go to trial, be beaten, and executed. The plan was for him to die. Some long-term plan, huh? The disciples didn't like it either. They didn't want to lose their friend. All they could think about, like Job, were the good old days when they wandered the country-side preaching, healing, eating, making new friends, and laughing.

John 14:1-14 (MSG)

1-4 “Don’t let this rattle you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. And you already know the road I’m taking.”

5 Thomas said, “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”

6-7 Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve even seen him!”

8 Philip said, “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.”

9-10 “You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act.

11-14 “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.

- i. Jesus’s disciples were completely heartbroken because he told them he was going to die soon. They had a completely different idea of what was going to happen. They most likely thought that they would continue doing what they had been doing for several years ... traveling the country-side healing people, loving people, sharing the good news, making new friends, and eating meals together.
 - ii. Suddenly, they were shocked that they were going to have to let go of the past and embrace an unknown future.
 - iii. How many times in your life have you had to make some change whether small or large and embrace something new? Discuss.
 - iv. How did you get through that transition from the old way to the new one? For example, I think the biggest transition is losing a spouse. That is definitely a losing how things were and moving to how they will be. Discuss.
 - v. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/78IFszCrPTA> if you are able to.
- d. The past, present, and future
- i. How did Jesus honor the past, present, and future of his faith in God?
 - ii. How can you honor the past, present, and future of God?
 - iii. What does the future possibly hold for you whether you are comfortable with it or not?

iv. What does the future possibly hold for this church whether we're comfortable with it or not?

4. Closing prayer

a. As you pray give acknowledge the past, present, and future of your lives and the church.