

April 14th 2019

Series: Save The Date

Part 1: Better Than You Imagined

Invite everyone to describe a time when they were really looking forward to something only to be hugely disappointed when it arrived.

What most resonated with you about last Sunday's message?

[Invite one or two people to summarize the message]

What are some of the most significant events that transpired this week in AD 33.

Was there ever a time in your life when there was something in your future that you were dreading - something unpleasant - such as a surgical procedure, a dissertation, a difficult meeting... How did you feel when it was finally "the week of"?

How might Jesus have felt the week of his betrayal and crucifixion?

Is there any indication he might have experienced tremendous anxiety and fear over what he was about to endure?

READ:

"Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again." Matthew 26:36-44 (NLT)

What does this passage teach you about Jesus' attitude toward suffering and hardship?

READ:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne

of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.” Hebrews 12:1–4 (NIV)

What does *this* passage teach you about Jesus’ attitude toward suffering and hardship?

According to this passage, why did Jesus endure the cross?

What helps us to not lose heart?

What are three things this week (Holy Week) can teach us?

[A: 1. *In God trouble doesn't last.*
 2. *In God, evil isn't in control.*
 3. *God is a God of new beginnings]*

Is there anything else we can learn from the events of this week?

READ:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you ...In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:3-6 (NIV)

Share some of your own personal insights from this passage.

Have you ever experience the truth and/or power of this passage in your personal life? Share it with the group.

Share specifically about a time when circumstances in your life dramatically changed in very short period of time.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE:

It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself. Romans 8:11 (MSG)