

Coach House Church BEACONS

WHEN LIFE GETS TOO MUCH

21ST JUNE 2021

Wouldn't it be great if once you decided to trust Jesus, you'd have an easy life, but unfortunately, that isn't true. We live in a broken world. and because of that, bad things will happen to all of us. We will all have to deal with loss, pain, sickness, and failure. That is kind of depressing, but Jesus gives us a great reminder in the bible in John 16:31 - 33.

Jesus answered them, "Do you finally believe? In fact, you're about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I'm not abandoned. The Father is with me. I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

He wants us to know that He has victory over sin and that those of us who trust in Him will get to experience his peace regardless of the difficult times we are facing. God's peace is something that every one of us can experience. We have to choose to turn to Him and believe that Jesus is the saviour of the world. What difficult struggle are you facing right now, and what is holding you back from giving that situation over to God?

Lets take a look at James 1:

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

This is probably one of the most challenging passages to live out. It's so hard to consider it an opportunity for great joy when trials come. However, this passage is great because James doesn't just end it there. He goes on to give us the why behind having great joy. He reminds us that God is using everything in our lives to help us grow and become more like Him. We can find comfort in knowing that trials will help us grow into a more Christ-like person. Now, this doesn't mean that it is always going to be easy. We would all like it if life was easy, but we live in a messed-up world. We can start to reframe our trials and begin to see them as opportunities to grow us into better people.

We've all felt like God was far away from us once in a while. But you know what ... That is a lie that we can easily fall for if we aren't careful. God is not a feeling .. He's much more than a feeling. Our feelings lie to us all the time. Feelings change quickly and can make us lose sight of the truth. This passage reminds us of the reality of where God is when we are brokenhearted: close. God is close to us when we experience pain, but we miss out on experiencing Him because we let the pain of the situation make us forget that He is right beside us. God wants us to call out to Him for help. We need to choose to turn to Him instead of blaming Him or forgetting about Him. What is standing in your way from turning to Him?

God causes everything to work together for good. Did you hear that? Everything! It can be so hard to remember that God causes every good thing and every bad thing in our lives to work together to accomplish His good plan. It can be easy to see how God uses good events in our lives, but sometimes it can seem impossible for the bad things to work for our good. When we forget to see how God can use both the good and bad things in our lives, we put God in a box and forget that God can do so much more than we can ever imagine.

Lets look at Isaiah 55:8-9.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

9For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

We are reminded that God's ways are higher than our ways and that his thoughts are higher than our thoughts. God can see the whole picture of our lives, and He is weaving them together to make up His story for our life. In every good or bad situation, God is growing us and

changing us to make us more and more like Jesus. We have to trust Him and remember that God will use all situations for his greater purpose.

We need to remember every day is a new day filled with new opportunities, which means we have a chance to start again. The problem that happens is that we sometimes let the stress of the day before wreck our next day. What would it look like for you to approach your day as a new chance to look for the good God is doing all around you? No matter how bad the day before was, you can choose today to make the best of your day when you choose to have an attitude of gratitude. God gives us a choice.

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is the gift of others in our lives. God did not want us to spend our lives alone. God put people in our lives to do life with and to show love to. One of the best things we can do when we are struggling is choosing to help someone else.

When we focus our thoughts, time, and energy on others, we take our eyes off of our problems, and we put others first. Putting others first is how Jesus lived his life. Jesus chose every day to serve others, and we can model our lives after His.

Jesus also tells us to remain in Him, but those three little words can be hard to do. Our minds are always filled with so many different things, and the demands of life can be distracting. It can be easy to put Jesus in a box and only focus on Him at church or when we're struggling. The problem with doing that is that he wants your whole heart and not just a tiny part of you. When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment he tells us that the first one is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Remaining in Jesus begins with loving Him and then choosing to make Him a part of all you do. You can talk to Him throughout your entire day. What would it look like to do that? How would your words and actions change if you chose to focus on Jesus no matter where you are or what you are doing?



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