

Sunday, April 12, 2020 - "Give It Up - Week 5: Despair - Doug Kempton"

Key Passages: Romans 8:18-39

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Something to anchor us and hold into in the midst of chaos
 - We need a refuge and rest
 - We are weary and tired and need strength
 - We need God and his help in this season of trouble
- "The resurrection and Easter weekend reminds us in our darkest moments that the story is not finished and God will in fact have the last word." - Doug Kempton
- Give up...Despair
 - Despair = the complete loss or absence of hope
 - The opposite of hope is to despair...hopelessness, despondence, discouragement, depression, anguish, gloom
- 4 Reasons for hope (Romans 8:18-39)
 - 1) Eternity (Romans 8:18)
 - Living into the power of delayed gratification
 - v22 - we groan for the day that we will be with HIM
 - The pain is worth it because eternity is exponentially better
 - 2) Advocacy (Romans 8:26)
 - We don't know what to pray in this season or don't want to pray or don't know how
 - When we have no words, words are still being spoken over us
 - 3) Victory (Romans 8:31-32)
 - No matter how bleak it seems, God will graciously give us all things
 - "The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." - Doug Kempton
 - God works all things for the good of those who love them
 - Does not mean "if you lose your job, God will give you a better one." (materialistic perspective)
 - "Nothing comes our way that He cannot use to advance His purposes in us and in the world." - Doug Kempton
 - All things work toward God's ultimate victory
 - 4) Security (Romans 8:37-39)
 - When we say yes to Jesus, all of Romans 8 is more secure for us
 - Nothing can snatch us from the hand of God

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Which of the 4 reasons for hope is hardest for you to accept and why?
2. What do you think it means that the Spirit of God is your advocate? How do you think that plays out?
3. Respond to this quote: "The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."
4. What comes to mind when you think about eternity? How can this inspire hope in you?
5. How are you doing with making God your anchor and your refuge in this season?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Thessalonians 1 Tues: Thessalonians 2 Wed: Thessalonians 3 Thurs: Thessalonians 4 Fri: Thessalonians 5

Songs from the weekend: [Glorious Day - Passion] - [Great Jehovah - Travis Greene] - [The Way - Pat Barrett] - [What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship] - [Ain't No Grave - Bethel Music]