

God's Comfort

Sunday message from November 13th, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **According to a pastor survey, the top 5 modern idols in the modern American church are:**
 1. **Comfort, 2. Control and security, 3. Money, 4. Approval, 5. Success.**
 - ❖ What commonalities or themes do you notice in this list?
 - ❖ How does the list sit with you? Does it ring true? Does it surprise you?
 - ❖ Which of the idols listed convicts or challenges you?
- **When our idols revolve around us, God becomes a “cosmic butler.” But, when our lives are God-centered, we can be formed into the likeness of Jesus.**
 - ❖ We all desire to go back to the comfort of the Garden of Eden, but we don't want God to define what that entails.
- **The Israelites had a history of seeking comfort; and sometimes we are just like them.**
 - ❖ Read [Numbers 14.1-4](#). How might you see your own thoughts reflected in the complaints and actions of Israel? Where might you be looking for comfort outside of God?
- **Following Jesus is, at it's core, uncomfortable. Jesus took on the discomfort of this world and suffered greatly. But, this is the same path to which we are called.**
 - ❖ Slowly read [2 Corinthians 1.3-11](#). What word, phrase or concept stands out to you?
 - ❖ Read through the passage again, asking God what He might speak or reveal to you.
 - ❖ Respond to God (in worship, confession, submission, silence, gratitude, etc.).
 - ❖ Take a few moments to be silent. Sit in God's presence, enjoy Him, rest in Him.
- **Consider the following statements that reflect on 2 Corinthians 1.3-11. Listen for what God may speak to you.**
 - ❖ God is the source of all comfort. He enters into pain with us, not just to sympathize but to strengthen.
 - ❖ Comfort is meant to be shared. We are to bear one another's burdens.
 - ❖ We cannot out-suffer God. He always has more comfort to give.
 - ❖ Sometimes we hold so tightly to our idols that it takes struggle, even suffering, to cause us to rely on God. (2 Cor 1.9)
- **We are a block of wood that God is carving through trials and struggles. Allow God to form you into the image of Jesus in the suffering.**
- **Consider the following questions, taking some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you reflect on this message.**
 - ❖ What struggle are you carrying right now? What struggle might you be avoiding?
 - ❖ What are you using for comfort instead of God? What comfort idol are you holding onto that is keeping you from experiencing the comfort of God?
 - ❖ Prayer of confession: *Yes, Lord, you're right. I have been worshipping that comfort more than you. That's wrong. Please help me to let go of that and give it to you.*
 - ❖ What might God be inviting you into in response to this message? (Maybe it's something that requires courage to step into what feels uncomfortable.)