

Summary

This sermon addresses the difficult question of what to do when we feel disappointed or angry with God. Using the story of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha from John 11, Pastor explores how Jesus delayed coming to heal Lazarus, allowing him to die, which left his friends feeling hurt and confused. The message emphasizes that while God is sinless and doesn't need forgiveness, we sometimes feel the need to 'forgive God' when our expectations don't align with reality. The sermon teaches that God's delays are not denials, that Jesus understands our pain through his own suffering, and that we can bring our raw emotions to God without fear. The ultimate message is about learning to trust God even when we don't understand his timing or methods, knowing that he is making all things new.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today with open hearts, acknowledging that sometimes we struggle to understand your ways. We ask that you would help each person in this group to be honest about their feelings and experiences. Give us the courage to share openly and the wisdom to listen well. Holy Spirit, we invite you to work in our hearts today and show us what you want us to learn from this time together. Help us to trust you more deeply, even when life doesn't make sense. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one thing that happened this week that didn't go according to your plan, but turned out okay in the end?

Key Verses

- John 11:1-44
- John 11:21
- John 11:35
- Jeremiah 20:7
- Habakkuk 1:2
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Hebrews 4:15
- Revelation 21:5
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Questions

- Have you ever had an 'if you had been here' moment with God? What was that situation like?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to wait two days before going to see Lazarus, even though he loved this family?
- The sermon mentioned that 'God's delays are not always denials.' Can you think of a time when God's timing was different from yours but worked out for the better?
- How does knowing that 'Jesus wept' with Mary and Martha change your perspective on bringing your pain to God?
- What's the difference between reverence that hides our emotions from God versus reverence that brings our honest feelings to him?
- The pastor shared examples from Jeremiah and Habakkuk who expressed frustration with God. How does this encourage you in your own relationship with God?
- How can we learn to trust God when we don't understand his ways, especially during difficult seasons?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus 'is making everything new' even when we can't see it happening?

Life Application

This week, practice bringing your honest emotions to God in prayer. If you're struggling with disappointment, confusion, or frustration - whether with God or life circumstances - don't hide these feelings. Instead, follow the example of Mary, Martha, Jeremiah, and others who brought their raw emotions to God. Spend time each day this week telling God exactly how you feel, then ask him to help you trust him even when you don't understand.

Key Takeaways

- Don't hide your hurt from God - He can handle your raw emotions and honest questions
- God's delays are not always denials - His timing and ways are higher than ours
- Jesus knows your pain because He experienced suffering and disappointment himself
- We can trust God even when we don't understand His methods or timing
- God is in the process of making all things new, even when we can't see it.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that You have forgiven us of so much. Help us to live from that place of grace as we extend forgiveness to others. For Lord Jesus, thank you for this time of discussion and for the reminder that you understand our struggles and disappointments. Help us to be people who bring our honest emotions to you rather than hiding them. When we face difficult seasons or confusing circumstances, give us the strength to trust you even when we don't understand. Thank you that you are making all things new and that your love for us never fails. Continue to work in our hearts and help us to grow in our faith and trust in you. In your precious name we pray, Amen.