

WHEN LIFE DISAPPOINTS PT.2

Scripture used: John 19:26-27 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

This week's message is Part 2 of the "When Life Disappoints" series and focuses on another phrase from Jesus as He hung on the cross. People tend to speak of things that are most important for others to know in their last moments of life, and Jesus' words in John 19:26-27 reveal that Jesus was no exception. While He was suffering excruciating pain, Jesus "saw" that both His mother, Mary, and His beloved disciple, John, were in pain as they watched Him suffer. Jesus is the Savior of the world, yet in the midst of His worst pain, His focus was on their pain and not his own and takes care of her. Mary was soon to have one less son, and there was nothing that John could do to help Jesus. So Jesus appointed John as her son and gave John something he could do for Him.

There are times in life when we will suffer from earth-shattering, heartbreaking disappointments and other times when we may suffer with quiet disappointments. This is when a person is suffering but is still smiling and can even be helpful and encouraging to others. This type of disappointment may seem less dramatic, but is no less toxic. Our disappointments, even quiet ones, have a way of making us close our hearts in order to protect them from further disappointments. But even in the midst of Jesus' greatest disappointment, His heart was wide open to love.

KEY POINTS

1) The Power of His Confession.

- "I am not okay, but I will be okay." Instead of denying or ignoring our disappointments and covering them up with a fake smile, it is perfectly acceptable to admit that you are not okay. Church is one of the few places where people don't have to be okay. We must practice saying, "I'm not okay, but I will be okay."

2) The Provision for His Mom.

- My pain in never just my pain. We never suffer alone. Our pain has an impact on others, especially those closest to us.
- My pain can either close my heart or open my heart. When we are brokenhearted, we often close our hearts to prevent further breakage, but in doing so we are unable to experience intimacy. We must resist the temptation to lock our hearts.
- My pain will either be transformed or transferred. Undealt with pain passes along to our children, spouse, co-workers, and everyone around us.

3) The Power of His Friendship.

- A friend "remains under." So often in the gospel of John does he use the Greek word "meno," which means to remain. John was with Jesus all the way to the cross. When Jesus looks at John, He sees one who "remains."
- A friend sacrifices to serve others. Out of all our relationships, is the chief motivation in having them service or are we always looking to get something out of them?
- Serving is the greatest act of friendship. John 15:12-15 makes clear that true friendship requires service. Service to one another is truly how we love one another.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is the current condition of your heart, open or closed? For those whose hearts are closed, please share your disappointments if you are willing to do so. For those whose hearts are open, please share a time when you have been disappointed. How did you survive with the disappointment and manage to have an open heart today?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read John 19:26-27. Our pain is not our own. Is there someone in your life whose pain is affecting you? Likewise, how could your own pain be impacting others around you?
- 3) **DO** - Read John 15:12-17. Choose at least one friend to serve and to love sacrificially this week. This means going out of your way to love them. Pastor Hurmon has asked all of our Life Groups to take time *together* to "pray for our 7" from the prayer cards that were distributed on Sunday -- and to regularly report and celebrate what God does in response. Each week will also have a Community Prayer Emphasis:

Pray for NBCC as a community and as individuals...

- for **God** to unleash our unique gifts, as we respond to His invitation to more fully glorify Him as we serve!