



Going Deeper Questions
"The Morning Light of Heaven"
Marcus Privett - 12/11/2022

Sermon Scripture Passage

Luke 1:57-80

Fun icebreaker question

Are there any Christmas traditions you'd like to start this year that you haven't done before?

Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret

Last week's discipleship cycle from Pastor Brynn was:

"Sometimes hearing stories about other people's faith can help bolster our own. This week, ask another Christian what keeps them coming back to Christ when the waiting feels long."

Did anyone do the "Respond Actively" exercise last week? What did you learn about God and yourself through that experience?

Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?

The birth of John the Baptist is a story we've likely heard before, especially around the holiday. However, in revisiting the story this week, what was new for you? Did any details, moments, or interpretations help you see the story in a new way?

My Story

- 1) What do you think about or feel when you hear the word "despair"?
- 2) Have there been times in your life in which you've despaired? If so, how did the despair impact the way you thought, acted, spoke to others, etc? How did the despair affect the way you saw and understood God?

Dive Deeper

*Let's re-read Luke 1:57-80 one more time.

- Circle / highlight any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- Underline what you think is important to remember.
- Put an X next to anything that confuses you.

Faith: What is this passage asking me to believe about God or myself?

Hope: What hope does this passage offer us as God's people?

Love: What is this passage asking us to do? How do we put these words into action in our lives?

Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively

This can be done in one sitting or several!

Set time aside this week to consider where you might be losing hope and despairing. Maybe it's something personal in your life, but also could be something larger (in our community, globally, etc). Name that thing. Name how it makes you feel. Name why it is you are despairing. Take your time here - no reason to rush. It may take days. When you are ready, how might you start surrendering that thing back to God? Maybe it may help by writing something to God. Maybe praying Psalms. Maybe talking with a friend, identifying how you may surrender. If you lack the words to pray, this prayer called the "Suspice" by St. Ignatius of Loyola gives me words when I have none: Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

https://vimeo.com/676378570?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=11647162

A special question for couples and families

What is something that we are really wanting or hoping for? How can you continue praying and hoping for that thing, but ultimately surrender it back to God?
