

Same God, Different Seasons

3-18-26

7 - When God Doesn't Make Sense

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-5 Holy Week. Road to Res. Easter. Prep to Go. Men's Breakfast.
- C. Slide6 Prayer:

II. Intro: When God Doesn't Make Sense

- A. Illustration: We have all walked into a movie halfway through.
 1. You see **characters** you don't recognize. **Conflict** you don't understand. **Decisions** that seem strange.
 2. **And** if you try to judge the story from that moment, it won't make sense.
 - a) **Not** because the story is bad, **but** because you're not seeing the whole picture.
 3. **Sometimes we do that with God**. We step into a moment of pain or confusion **and** try to evaluate **His goodness** *from a single scene*.
 - a) **But** God is not writing a moment. He is writing **a story**.
- B. My goal tonight is **not to solve the tension** of *when God Doesn't Make Sense*. My goal is to help us **Live Inside It ... with God**.

III. Slide7a 1 NAMING THE TENSION

- A. There are moments in life where God is not just **silent** - He is **confusing**.
 1. What He allows **doesn't seem to fit** what we know about **Him**. What He **does** seems **out of sync** with what we expected.
 - a) Examples we feel: **Prayers** that seem ignored. **Outcomes** that feel backwards. **Good people suffering, difficult people prospering**. Timing that feels off!
 2. This is **not** a lack of faith. This is part of **walking by faith**.
- B. Illustration: If you've ever taken a small child to get a shot, you've seen this.
 1. The child looks at you like, *"Why are you letting this happen?"*

2. From their perspective, it makes no sense. **The one they trust is allowing something painful.**
 - a) **But** from your perspective, you see what they cannot. *Protection. Prevention. A bigger picture.*
 3. **Slide7b** *There are moments where we stand before **God** the same way, asking, *“Why would You allow this?”*
 4. **And** the honest answer is... sometimes, from our vantage point, *it won’t make sense.*
- C. **Questions:** Which is harder for you: when God is silent, or when *what He allows feels confusing?* - Why do you think we expect God to make sense to us?
- D. **Slide8** 1 line we’ll repeat to **carry us through the night - Big Idea.** I say 1st. **When God doesn’t make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.*

IV. **Slide9a** **2 SCRIPTURE IS HONEST ABOUT THIS**

- A. The Bible does not hide this struggle.
- B. **Habakkuk** - *Why do You tolerate wrongdoing?*
 1. God answers... but in a way that creates more confusion.
- C. **Asaph** (Psalm 73:3) *I was **envious** of the **arrogant** when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*
 1. It doesn’t make sense **until he sees** from **God’s perspective.**
- D. **Job** - God speaks... **but** does not **explain**.
- E. **Slide9b Isaiah** (55:8-9) *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, **neither** are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 **For as** the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
 1. **Not** as a **shutdown** (or stiff-arm), **but as** a reminder of **scale.**
- F. **Slide9c** (now add context of vs. 6,7) *Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his **way**, and the unrighteous man his **thoughts**; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for **he will abundantly pardon.***

G. Forsake both your way & your thoughts.

1. Our thoughts are the 1st baby steps that help us choose our way.
2. Our thoughts also become the very breeding ground for sin.

Forsake em both! - Turn & Trust.

H. (7b) ... for He will abundantly pardon. Do you have abundant sin? He has abundant pardon! (I believe, someone needs to hear that tonight)

1. But the hardness of my heart is abundant - But my pride is abundant - But the selfishness of my life is abundant. But the pardon of the Lord is abundant - Super Abundant!

I. HIS THOUGHTS (8-10)

J. Slide10a (8,9) We place this in the category of Deut 29:29 *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

1. Slide10b J. Alec Motyer - Irish biblical scholar, *This cancels the useless and debilitating question "Why?" in face of life's difficulties; it opens the door to the blessed reality of faith in a God who is truly God.*

K. We should not pry into His secrets. We are to be content to live with what he has told us.

1. Slide10c *Reverence excludes speculation about things that God has not mentioned in His Word - we must be content not to know what Scripture does not tell us.* J.I. Packer, Hot Tub Religion, p. 56.

L. (9) How much higher is heaven? (immeasurably) God is Incomprehensible yet knowable.

M. **Questions:** What do these verses teach us about the gap between God's perspective and ours? - Why do you think God often gives *revelation of Himself* instead of explanations? (Ex.34:6,7 became Israel's confession of faith, **the people's working definition of God*)

N. Slide11 **When God doesn't make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.*

V. Slide12 3 WHY GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE SENSE

A. We Are Finite.

1. We see: Moments. **God sees:** The whole story.
2. We are reading one page, God is writing the whole book.

B. God Is Not Operating on Our Timeline.

1. We want: Immediate clarity. Immediate resolution.
God often works: Slowly. Deeply. Eternally.

C. God's Primary Goal Is Formation, Not Explanation.

1. We want: answers. **God wants:** Trust. Maturity. Dependence.

D. Sometimes clarity would actually *short-circuit faith*.

E. Slide13 *When God doesn't make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.

VI. Slide14a 4 THE DANGER WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

A. This is where people often *drift*.

1. We begin to reinterpret God based on *circumstances*. We lower trust when *understanding* is low. We build theology from *experience instead of* Scripture.

B. When God doesn't make sense, the temptation is to *rewrite* who He is.

C. Slide14b Questions: Have you ever been tempted to reinterpret God's character based on your circumstances? - Why is it dangerous to build our theology only from our experiences?

D. Slide15 *When God doesn't make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.

VII. Slide16a 5 THE ANCHOR: WHAT HAS GOD ALREADY MADE CLEAR?

A. This is *the heart* of your message.

B. When life is unclear, we hold to what is clear: *Ask*: what do we know about God?

1. God is ____? God is **good**. God is **wise**. God is **present**. God is **sovereign**. God is **loving**.
 2. And ultimately **we know Jesus Christ**. **The cross** is the clearest revelation of God!
- C. **So** when life is confusing: We interpret what we *don't understand* through *what we do!*
- D. **Slide16b Questions:** Why is it important to *interpret* what we don't understand **through** what we do understand?
- E. **Slide17** **When God doesn't make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.*

VIII. Slide18a **6 THE CROSS IS THE ULTIMATE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE MOMENT**

- A. **Nothing made less sense than the crucifixion.** The Messiah dying? The innocent condemned? Evil appearing to win?
1. And yet: That moment was the center of God's plan.
- B. **Slide18b** *"The moment that made **the least sense** became the moment that made everything **make sense**."*
- C. **Slide18c Questions:** How does **the cross**, shape the way we *interpret* confusing seasons?
- D. **Slide19** **When God doesn't make sense, we hold tighter to what He has already made clear.*

IX. Slide20a **7 WHAT FAITH LOOKS LIKE IN THIS SEASON**

- A. **When God doesn't make sense:**
1. **We trust without full clarity. - We obey without full understanding. We wait without full explanation. [that's real faith]**
 - a) **Not blind faith, but Informed Trust.**
- B. **Slide20b Tie It Back To Our Series.**
1. When God is **distant** - we **trust** His character.

2. When God is **near** - we **feel** His comfort.
3. When God **does not answer** - we **rest** in His wisdom.
4. When God **speaks** - we **surrender** to His voice.
5. When God **allows pain** - we **cling** to His cross.
6. When God **allows joy** - we **steward** His gifts.
7. When God **does not make sense** - we trust what He has already made clear. [**Same God. Different seasons**]

C. **Closing.**

D. You may not **understand** what God is doing. **But** you can **trust** who God has shown Himself to be.

E. **Prayer:** *Where are you being asked to **trust** God without full understanding right now?* Take a little time of silence, before I close in prayer.

F. Keywords: understanding, trust, secret, revealed.