

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Is Preeminent in Everything

WHY ARE HARD THINGS HARD?

Hard things are hard because they involve the absence of something we were made to have.

Hard things are hard because they involve the presence of something we were not made to have.

Hard things are hard because they deny us something we believe we are owed.

Hard things are hard because they force upon us things we don't believe we deserve.

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH HARD THINGS?

Change our circumstances.

Change our story.

HOW DOES JESUS RELATE TO OUR HARD THINGS?

What Jesus Did

Who Jesus Is

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that living out of the right story is the only way to honor God in times of hardship. And right at the center of the right story is the preeminence of Jesus Christ—who He is and what He's done. The main takeaway is to make sure Jesus is central to your story and everything else is seen in light of that.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What are the hardest things you are dealing with in life right now? How are you primarily dealing with them? What have you tried? How has it worked?
3. Have you ever thought about why hard things are hard? If so, did you come to any conclusions?
4. Which of the four reasons for hardship stand out to you the most? Do any explain more of your hardships than the others? Are the hard things in your life more tied to a disordering of your life or your expectations?
5. When things are hard in your life, do you tend to focus more on changing the circumstances associated with the hardship or the story out of which you are interpreting them? Why do you think that is?
6. Have you ever tried hard to change your hard circumstances, but been unable to? How did that make you feel?
7. Can you name a specific time in which the story you believed significantly affected the level of hardship you experienced?
8. What about what Jesus did stands out the most to you?
9. What about who Jesus is stands out the most to you? As you consider a specific hardship in your life, can you honestly say that the preeminence of Jesus is the lens through which you are seeing it? What might change if it was?
10. How can you make the preeminence of Jesus the center of the story of your life?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
13. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
14. Pick one of the fourteen aspects of the preeminence of Jesus listed in this passage and study it further.
15. Pick one of the challenging things in your life and begin asking God to help you see it more fully in light of Jesus.
16. Find someone who is going through a significant hardship and help them make Jesus the center of their story.
17. Try to express Colossians 1:15-20 artistically.
18. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, the one by, through, and for all created things were created, before all things, the one who holds all things together, the head of the Church, the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, the one in whom all the fullness of God is pleased to dwell, the one through whom everything is reconciled to God, the one by whose blood there is peace, and preeminent in everything.
21. Confession. Confess caring more about your circumstances than having Jesus is at the center of your story.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for who Jesus is and what He's done. Thank God for a church that helps you see all this.
23. Supplication. Ask the Spirit to help us make Jesus the center of our story and navigate our trials in light of that.