**Carolyn Ketchie’s Memorial Service**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 07.06.18 | Grace |  |  |  |

Ecclesiastes 7:1 ESV, A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

* The sweetness of her reputation
* Her impact on Molly and me
* Her welcome to me at Grace and the notes that followed

FOR FRIENDS:

1 Peter 4:12–13, **“[12] Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. [13] But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”**

FOR ED:

Ephesians 4:32, **“[32] Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”**

FOR CHAD:

**Romans 5:2–5, “[2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”**

FOR KARA:

John 14:27, **“[27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

**A Command to Believe from a Heart that Cares**

* **John 14:1: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**
* **When JC spoke this it was the sorrows of their hearts that now occupy HIS great heart of love.**
	+ **JC begins with a command** (which seems odd) **that stems from JC’s care for the disciples**. He tried to calm their fears by anchoring their faith. App/ill: THIS IS OUR HOPE – conversation with ED and KARA last week.

**A Promise that Provides Hope – We’re not home yet!**

* Besides JC himself, **there is no greater hope** (for disciple or us) **to know that not only will we be with Him, but we will be removed from this present suffering**.
* **We too can have hope** and not have troubled hearts. We are not home yet.
* **“mansions” signifies “abiding places”**–a most comforting term assuring us of the permanence of our future home in contrast to the tent of this present pilgrimage.
* **Christ was giving them hope by saying that he would be with them again**. He was going to do all necessary to secure a place for them permanently in heaven.
* **This preparation included not only making the atoning sacrifice** which he was about to do by the cross, **but also to take a seat at the right hand** of the throne of God so all those who believe in him could be presented as sanctified before God.
* **“I will come again**” - how wonderful of a promise this is! The Lord will not send for us but he will come in person to take us to the Father's house.
* **“and receive you unto myself” - would've been the great hope to the disciples to know that they would be received by him again**; our great hope as well.
* **Here is the precise prescription to console their groaning souls:**
	+ **Have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**
	+ **Rest assured** that the father's house on high would be their turn a home
	+ **Trust that the Savior had done and will do everything necessary to secure us a welcome there in the home of God**
	+ **Embrace the hope that he is coming in person to receive us again**
	+ **Believe promise that we will be with him forever**
* **Still doubt? So did Thomas** (V 5). His fear of doubt or that he will miss something propelled him to ask the question. But perhaps he wasn’t listening well. Pay attn!

**Jesus Answers the doubting/hopeless heart w the promise of Himself**

* **Before sin entered the world Adam and Eve enjoyed a threefold privilege w/ God**: They were with w/ God always (way), Were known by him and knew him (truth), and he possessed for them spiritual vibrancy and totally holiness (life). **Keith has this NOW!**
	+ When Adam and Eve chose to sin all people now needed for **3 things to be reestablished through–reconciliation, illumination and, and regeneration**
* **JC reestablishes these 3 things** in v 6. The great truth, promise & hope about him.
	+ **“I am the way”**–Christ spans the distance between God and is at the center gate. Christ is not nearly a path to the father but he himself is the only way to the father.
	+ **“I am the truth”**–Christ is the full and final revelation of God. Truth is not to be found in the system of philosophy, but in a person–Christ is the truth: he reveals God and exposes man. **In him are headed “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3)**
	+ **“I am the life”**–Christ is the emancipator from death. Oh death! Where is your sting! Sure life is frail, but I don’t fear that anymore. “Death is gain.” Take me!
	+ **“No man comes to the father except by me”** Christ is the only way to God. It is utterly impossible to win God's favor by any other means.
* **V 7: “from now on you do know him and have seen him”– an I AM statement**.

**Embrace the gift of tomorrow by believing in Christ today**

* Today we’ve seen how the author of this gospel, John, explains how **JC confronted the fears and doubts by inviting them to continue to believe in him**
* (Theological idea) **The only way to gain an internal perspective and know an internal God is through Jesus Christ.**
* **So again, we are invited to embrace the hope of tomorrow**. We are invited to have peace today because we know that currently is on the horizon. We are invited to have joy in the midst of suffering. We do this by believing in Christ today.
* **For you**! For you! You may think you’ve already unwrapped this gift, but unwrap it again (daily) w/ new excitement that this hope he has for you can be embraced today

**She didn’t just get more of Christ, She got all of Christ. It takes a death day to get all of Him.**

But you can him him know by believing as Carolyn did