

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Psalm Sunday – April 13, 2025
- Good Friday Worship Experience – April 18, 2025
- April 20, 2025 – Easter Worship Experience – See: <https://www.elevationchurch.org/easter>
- Digital Invites: <https://cloud.email.elevationchurch.org/Easter-Digital-Invites>
- Elevation Devotionals: https://cdn.elevationchurch.org/files/pdfs/easter/IKnowAName_Devo_V3.pdf

Please note the following on-line worship times at Elevation Church:

Good Friday Worship experience to include communion: Friday, April 18, 2026 at 6:30 USA Eastern and again at 9:30 PM USA Eastern

Easter Sunday Worship Experience: Friday, April 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM USA eastern, 11:30 AM USA Eastern, 2PM USA Eastern, 5PM USA Eastern, 8PM USA eastern, and 10PM USA Eastern.

John 20:1-8 - Jesus' disciples find evidence of an empty tomb - 20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Matthew 28:2 - The angel of the Lord rolled the stone away: 28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

John 11:39 - - Martha's concern about rolling Lazarus' stone away: Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead - 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

“Sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- We all have moments when we think, “Show me the evidence!”
- Make sure you’re not just following compelling evidence but conclusive evidence.
- Comparison is when you collect evidence about someone else’s life to tell a story about your own.
- Beware of evidence you find: 1) in the dark and 2) at a distance.
- Don’t let what’s broken blind you to God’s truths.
- The tomb wasn’t empty — it was full of evidence.
- The stone is evidence of God’s power; the strips of linen are evidence of Jesus’ pain and your purpose; the folded cloth is evidence that God has a plan for you.
- Sometimes you have to dust for fingerprints in your life and find the hand of God.

Scriptures

- John 20:1-8 - Jesus’ disciples find evidence of an empty tomb
- Matthew 28:2 - The angel of the Lord rolled the stone away
- John 11:39 - - Martha’s concern about rolling Lazarus’ stone away

Sermon Discussion

- “You need to make sure you’re not just following compelling evidence but conclusive evidence.” In a current challenge, what compelling evidence might be misleading you? What conclusive evidence shows God is with you?
- “Beware of evidence you find: 1) in the dark and 2) at a distance.” What practices help keep you from gathering evidence in the dark or at a distance? How have you seen them help you in the past? (ex. Reading your Bible, talking through the evidence with a trusted friend, etc.)
- “The stone is evidence of God’s power; the strips of linen are evidence of Jesus’ pain and your purpose; the folded cloth is evidence that God has a plan for you.” How would focusing on these pieces of evidence this week change your perspective about what you’re currently walking through?

“Sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Prayer Prompt

Chet reminded us: “The tomb wasn’t empty — it was full of evidence.” We pray that each person will feel the personal and intentional love of God in those exact areas. Pray the evidence that was left at the tomb (the stone rolled away, the strips of linen, and the folded cloth) will comfort us and remind them how deeply loved they are. As we approach Easter Weekend, pray that each member will reflect on God’s sacrifice and love shown on the cross and on His power shown at the empty tomb.

Great opening comment by Pastor Furtick:

"The prophetic word I've been assigned to preach to you today may come across, on the surface, as very simple, but it is really the deepest belief you could ever hold, and it is this: "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load." I know you had a lot on your mind even coming in today, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know sometimes people take advantage of you because you're available to them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you've done some bad things in your life, and you feel kind of guilty about them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're trying to make a plan right now, and stuff keeps moving, and stuff keeps shifting, and people keep moving, and people keep shifting, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're stubborn and you don't like to ask for a lot of help, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know your shoulders are tense. Lord will lighten your load."

“Sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Here is what Charles Spurgeon says about Easter today in his devotional:

“Oh Jesus - despised and rejected by people - how could you die for those who treated you so badly? Here is amazing love - love divine - love beyond degree - You bled to heal our wounds and died to give us life - so that we could set you on a glorious high throne in all of our hearts! We ring out your praises over land and sea until we all universally adore you - just as they once rejected you.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- is there anybody that came to lift up the name of Jesus on Palm Sunday?
- I'm trying to see where God's been moving has been moving in your life over here.
- What about right here? Has he been moving in your life? He's been showing up this week? What about on this side Has God shown up in your life this week?
- My God Hallelujah - Thank you Jesus.
- If we haven't met before my name is Chad - I'm the pastor at our University City campus and I'm so honored to be able to preach on Palm Sunday to our church.
- I want to take this moment and welcome all of our campuses and our eFam all around the world - I want to give a special shout out to Elevation Winston Salem – They just celebrated their 8 year anniversary.
- I want to pray for us - and I believe that God has a word that he wants to speak to you today.
- Can you open up your hands like this - A posture just ready to receive whatever it is God wants to speak to you - Jesus we come to you saying thank you - Thank you for being a good God - a faithful God – God we trust you - we pray right now in the mighty name of Jesus that you would have your way today – That you would do what you want to do - And God let us leave this place changed - Let our lives be evidence that we had an encounter with you - We love you Jesus - We thank you And it's in the mighty name of Jesus I pray Amen.
- I have two quick announcements for you: Good Friday Worship experience to include communion: Friday, April 18, 2026 at 6:30 USA Eastern and again at 9:30 PM USA Eastern - Easter Sunday Worship Experience: Friday, April 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM USA eastern, 11:30 AM USA Eastern, 2PM USA Eastern, 5PM USA Eastern, 8PM USA eastern, and 10PM USA Eastern.
- I also want to take moment and thank God for our pastors Pastor Stephen and Holly – Can we thank God for the gifts Now? If I give you a good gift and you go crazy about it - it makes me want to give you more - So how good of a gift do we have it with the pastors that God has given to us with Pastor Stephen and Holly?
- I remember the first time that pastor asked me to preach to our church and he came up to me - and he could tell that I was overwhelmed, nervous, and could not understand why he would trust me to be able to stand on this stage - And he looked at me and he said "Chad I want you to know I could have anybody come and preach - anybody would love to come and have a moment to be a part of this movement of God - but I chose you and I believe in you."
- I'm grateful to have a pastor that believes in me - and so if my pastor called me and gave me this opportunity - he believes in me - And I know God gave me a word.
- I'm ready to preach now - Are you ready to hear the word?

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Lets go to scripture.
- John 20:1-8 - Jesus' disciples find evidence of an empty tomb - 20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!” 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.
- Matthew 28:2 - The angel of the Lord rolled the stone away: 28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.
- John 11:39 - - Martha's concern about rolling Lazarus' stone away: Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead - 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”
- So Peter and the other disciple the one that Jesus loved they started running for the tomb - Watch this - Both were running but the other disciple outran Peter - So not only is John saying "I'm the one that Jesus loves," he wanting you to know that I'm faster than Peter.
- The title of my message today is “Follow the Evidence”
- To start um my message I have a little illustration just to be able to set the direction um for this message.
- You know you have John making these claims I'm the one that Jesus loves - And then he says I'm faster than Peter And back then - we didn't have cell phones.
- Okay - So you have these outlandish claims that people make sometimes and you're like - again there's no video - you know for us to go back and see that that John actually beat Peter in a race - so he's not here to defend himself - And so you have these moments where you're like "Hey show me show me the evidence."

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Elevation sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Well this week - I got inspired by the masters - you're going to like this – this is the setup – see the video of me making a putt on hole 18 in order to make par while playing best ball - so it was a big deal - put it up on the screen really quick - Now the golfers you can see you're paying attention that there was a little slant I had to curve it a little bit - Y'all didn't know I could preach the gospel and play golf did you?
- Now let me be honest with you - this was actually the first and last time that I've ever played golf - The clothes that I had on all were purchased 48 hours before tea time – The hat - the polo pants - and the golf shoes. The only thing we know for sure is that I came home smelling like I had been outside - like I the grass was permeating our house. The clubs that I use were borrowed.
- There's something else we read about in the text that was borrowed.
- Who knows that Jesus was put into a borrowed tomb? You see that's evidence that he was going to be raised from the dead because he made the decision to borrow the tomb – because he wasn't going to stay there very long.
- **You came to church on Sunday morning and you started to look at this video and some of you were like "Oh I can see he could plays golf?" That was compelling evidence of my golfing ability - but it wasn't conclusive There's a difference when I say follow the evidence - all of us are following something - You know you can scroll on social media - you got a lot of people and things that you're following - But today God told me to tell you that you need to make sure you're not just following compelling evidence but you're following conclusive evidence.**
- What you did not know is I went out and played one good hole out of 18 – the group WAS so excited because I finally did something - And y'all are here ready to sign me up for the masters.
- **I wonder in your life what compelling evidence is leading you to tell a story that's just not true?**
- I have some examples for you - I was thinking that you know many of us battle and struggle with comparison that we'll watch others and we'll scroll on social media and when you collect evidence of someone else's life to tell a story about your own life - I'm going to say it one more time - Comparison is when you collect evidence about someone else's life to tell a story about your own life.
- And so you'll do things like this - you just got a job you've been working it for six months and you love it - You get up every morning you go you thank God for this - You were praying for this job - And then all of a sudden somebody on your team gets an opportunity or gets promoted and you start telling yourself “The organization must not value me any more - You don't know the details - It might have even been a lateral move - You don't see their paycheck - but you have collected evidence from someone else's life to tell a story about your own.
- There's a wife that just this week you were scrolling on social media and you saw someone else's husband sent their wife some flowers and they posted about it - Look at what my boo got me! - You and your husband y'all been having a good time - Been going on dates - Husband's working hard - Everything's been good - But one story - Got you mad - Husband comes home and he's like "Hey what's up baby?" You rolling your eyes - What's going on? I thought everything was okay - Well he bought his wife some flowers - Why don't we buy me some flowers? You don't even like flowers.

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Detailed sermon notes:

- You Hey I just want to thank God for my wife - My wife don't like flowers - She says chocolate is her love language Bring me a double fudge chocolate cake - The flowers will die - Bring me something that will satisfy my sweet tooth - Show up with some Reese's and some Kit Kats - I'm telling my wife - Thank you baby - **But you got mad because you allowed yourself to collect evidence from someone else's life to tell a story about your own.**
- **Even when we start to look at Palm Sunday and we have Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and you see all of these people applauding - You see they were there because they just heard about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead So they started to follow him and they're celebrating him They're like "Hosana." They're waving these palm branches - but where were those people when they begin to yell "Crucify him." It led me to believe that that maybe people's praise and celebration isn't conclusive evidence of their heart - and how good of a friend they will be - I want to know if you're going to show up when all hell breaks loose in my life - I want to know if you're going to show up when I'm struggling - when I lost the job and I can't sleep - and it's keeping me up all night - I want to know more conclusive evidence as to the type of friend you want in your life.**
- You see Palm Sunday them celebrating Jesus - it wasn't conclusive evidence about their hearts - What it was was Jesus fulfilling a prophecy - That's what it was.
- **For Many of you have come today and the prayer that was on your heart was I need some proof – I need some that God is real - I need some proof that he hadn't forgot about me - I need some evidence today And you've been scrolling on social media - and some people have started to build a Tik Tok and Instagram theology about the church about the bride of Christ - But have you shown up to one of our campuses - Have you showed up to a popup - Have you showed up and seen people give hugs to people that desperately needed to be encouraged- Have you showed up and checked your kids into eKids - had them teach you about Jesus - Can we take a moment and thank God for the bride of Christ - love my church - I'm not saying we're perfect - but my church is praying for some people - My church is serving - My church shows up when disaster strikes - Don't let what Instagram fool you - The church is alive - God is moving - He's faithful - Thank you Lord.**
- So let's get back to the text - What drew my attention was that you see Mary share this story – She says to the disciples she says "They took my savior and I don't know where he is." We wouldn't be here today if that was true - We didn't come to worship a dead God - We came to lift up a risen savior - So I was like why would she go and tell this story without gathering evidence to corroborate her story - And there was two mistakes that we see Mary makes in this text - Watch this - It says "Early on the first day of the week while it was still dark that spoke to me." Write this down - beware of the evidence you find in the dark - You see it wasn't just dark because the sun hadn't came up yet - It was dark inside - Remember they just lost their friend They just saw Jesus brutally beaten and hung up on a cross – and They're grieving - God gave me this point for somebody who walked in today and the sun still hadn't came up yet - I don't know what you're walking through today - but God told me to tell you **beware of the evidence you find in the dark - You can't see well when the lights aren't turned on - There's some evidence that will start to misconstrue the story that God is trying to bring together.**

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Detailed sermon notes:

- Just about six weeks ago um my oldest son got pushed too hard playing around and he fell into his shoulder and broke his collar bone - And my sons play basketball - They're athletes And you know a couple days in I started to look at my son's eyes And I could tell that the enemy was trying to use this to dim his light - He was trying to use this to make him think that that maybe I'm going to fall behind and I'm not going to be good enough to be able to play again or the pain of what he was feeling that it was becoming so much - There's things that he wants to do he can't do.
- We went on a spring break trip and he can't get out into the ocean - and he it was starting to get dark and I'm trying my best to encourage him like "Hey son son it's okay for you to be mad - It's okay for you to be frustrated – Hey but I want you to know that God's hand is on your life - That God could use this too - There's still hope - Let's not listen to that voice that's telling you that it's over - "I'm using my son as an example for God to speak to you about yours."
- How about this Don't let what's broken blind you - I don't know what it is in your life but don't let what's broken blind you.
- We went to the doctor that's taking care of my son - He comes to the church and he's encouraging my son - and when we're getting done - he looks at my son and he starts to tell him he said "God can use this too." He was trying to let him know He said he told my son this he said "Most athletes that actually make it to the college level they've gained the mental toughness to be able to do what they do because they made it through that obstacle - They came over an injury and at the end of his speech he put his hand on my son He said "Would you mind if I prayed for you?" See he's ministering to my son but he didn't know that he was ministering to me in that moment - because I was praying - I don't know anything about broken bones - I don't know I'm like "God I need you to do something." And it was a moment for God to just start to turn the lights on.
- Now here's the next thing that that that that Mary did wrong - it says verse two verse two “So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple I know the one that Jesus loves - she didn't go in - Beware of the evidence you find in the dark and beware of the evidence you find at a distance.
- She didn't even go into the tomb - She saw that the stone was rolled away - Immediately ran back and told the disciples "They've taken Jesus and we don't know where they put him." And she didn't even go in
- You see when my son broke his collar bone you know he was hurting at the school And the nurse calls and she says "Hey listen He's in pain We tried to give it a few minutes but I think you're going to need to take him in to the doctor to be able to see what actually is going on.
- What has been misdiagnosed in your life because the evidence that you gathered at a distance? You didn't get close enough to see exactly what was going on.
- You're calling things that that God has blessed - You're calling them broken - Hey this might be somebody you just now are going through a breakup - and you walked in heartbroken today - God told me to tell you stop for a moment just to tell you that's a blessing - He wasn't the one - You just dodged a bullet - I don't know who that is for.

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Detailed sermon notes:

- That's not in my notes - But then there's somebody else in here that's like "Hey you've had your eye on a girl since you came in and you've been watching and here's the story you're telling you're at a distance - and you're like "There's no way she will talk to someone like me - And she's beautiful – and she's sitting - She's like "There's no way that anybody will love me - hey young man - You'll never know if you don't go on in and have a conversation - You'll never know you'll get the job - You're standing at a distance - I'm not qualified for that job - Put the application in.
- I wonder how much pain my son would have been in if we wouldn't have gone into the doctor to actually get an accurate diagnosis of what's going on - Beware of the evidence you find in the dark Beware of the evidence you find at a distance.
- I thank God - I thank God that that Peter and John didn't just stare at the tomb that was rolled away - but they actually got closer to investigate.
- And so here's what I want do – I need somebody that has a Bible - Okay John chapter 20 - What's the title of this section? The title It says “The empty tomb.”
- Our pastor has taught us that a lot of times we don't realize that these titles were put on after the scriptures were written - And as I was reading - God blessed me - because I realized that that not only did Jesus did rise from the dead but that tomb was empty
- And so what I want to do is I want to preach for the rest of my time to be able to show you what was left in that tomb - I believe it'll be compelling - I believe that you'll get to the point where you have conclusive evidence that God hadn't forgot about you - that you're not alone in this - that God has been with you – And so let's get into it.
- So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb both were running - and John was faster - Okay we got it - John gets there - he doesn't go in but he bends over - and he looks in and he sees the strips of linen lying there and then at verse 6 Simon Peter came along behind him - He went straight into the tomb - and he saw the strips of linen and he sees this cloth - Okay So Mary didn't go in - but what she sees is that the stone had been rolled away.

So here I want to give you exhibit.

- Exhibit A - Put up on the screen - This is the stone - This would have this would have been what a Jewish tomb would have looked like where Jesus would have been buried - They have on the side of a mountain - They they've carved out this hole and they would place bodies in there - after they've been wrapped and this this stone that's rolled away it weighs over a ton - It would have taken about four to five men to be able to roll this stone in and out of place.
- And so I put my you know my detective jacket on today and I said if I was there and I had the question who did it? Who rolled the stone away? You know what I did I would just start dusting for fingerprints I just start dusting for fingerprints - I'd been dusting it and I saw some of the men that rolled it in and out of place I saw these men and then I would have started to uncover some fingerprints that looked a little different that that that stood out - They were different than anything else - that I'd seen before And then you know John doesn't show us who rolled the stone away - But when you go to Matthew you see who does Go to Matthew 28:2.

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Elevation sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Here's what it says It says: “there were a violent earthquake for the angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb rolled back the stone and sat on it .
- What I'm trying to show you is as I begin to dust for fingerprints I start to see that there's some fingerprints that don't look human - I start to see that that that this stone could have only been rolled away by someone's hand that came down from heaven.
- What I'm slowing down to say is sometimes you got to dust for fingerprints in your life And see God's hand was on this - Is there anybody here today that has stones that had been rolled away that you can say it was no way that could have happened if it wasn't for the hand of God.
- Hey I'm about to get happy Can you have church with me for a second - As I look back over my life I see times that I went to the doctor - and he told me one thing - I came back they said something different - It was the hand of God that was on my life - Some of you when you go to your car and you were wondering how you were going to get transportation - dust it for fingerprints - God open up the door for you to get that - When you walk into your house and you start dusting around - you see somebody praising God like this God told me to tell you when you start doing like this I'm just dusting for fingerprints over my life I'm just dusting for fingerprints
- Maybe they're shouting at University City Maybe they're excited at University City because God showed up for you - You didn't do it by yourself - You weren't smart enough to make that happen.
- Some of you next week - you'll see dusting for fingerprints to see that God showed up.
- Not only do we see the stone that's moved but then we walk in and we see that there's strips of linen lying there - It would have looked something like this.
- These were Jesus's grave clothes - These strips of linen was - what was wrapped around Jesus's body - Can you imagine leaning and looking and seeing the dried blood stains - What was crimson red is now turned brown As you look at these strips of linen that were wrapped around my savior's body - that was broken and bruised.
- **You see the stone tells a story of God's power - The strips of linen they tell a story of God's pain - The pain that Jesus went through for you - You needed evidence - Look at the strips of linen - You might have walked in today and the evidence you needed you're like I'm not valuable - You maybe had even considered taking your own life - the strips of linen shows me God's pain - but it reveals my purpose - It lets me know that I have value -it lets me know no matter what compelling evidence the world tries to throw in my face - That Jesus loved me so much he died for me - Why would I walk around being shackled and chained when Jesus paid for my freedom? Why would I be walking around in desperate need of hope i- n desperate need of peace - He died for you -He took on the pain so you didn't have to - When I see the strips of linen it reminds me the pain that he went through - Lets me know that my life has purpose.**

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Detailed sermon notes:

- So you have the stone that's rolled away shows us evidence of God's power - You see the strips of linen lying there with the dried blood stains reminding us of Jesus dying for us - But then it says that there's this cloth - it was when you read it - it gives detail - So it shows that it was separate from the linen And when you start to look at the way that it was written - it actually was folded - It really was like a napkin folded left there for them to find - And I begin to study - I was like God what is the story that the napkin tells? And this blessed me - I hope it blesses you - You see in Jewish culture if they were having a banquet and the master's sitting at the table everybody's joyful - They're having a good time - and he's eating - When he's done he'll ball up his napkin and he will place it on his plate - and excuse himself at the table - When the napkin's balled up it'll let the servants know that the master's done - But if the master takes time to fold the napkin he's letting you know I'm coming back. He's letting you know I'm not done He's letting you know I'm not finished.
- I don't know what problem you face but my God has a plan He's coming back to save you - He's coming back to heal you - He's coming back to provide for you - The folded napkin lets me know that my God has a plan I know we're trying to figure some things out but my God has a plan - I know we're watching the stock market like "What are we going to do?" My God has a plan My God - Tap your neighbor Tell him "God has a plan." My God has a plan – The napkin was folded - My king is coming back - He's not done - He's not done Thank you Jesus.
- But as I continued to read - I thought I was done - I was like I got three points - Let's shut it down - Let's go home
- But God gave me one more piece of evidence left in this tomb that tells a story - So remember Mary doesn't even go all the way in but she sees the stone was rolled away - You got John who gets to the edge of the tomb looks in he sees the strips of linen - Then you got Peter - He goes all the way in and he sees the cloth lying there.
- Now remember the reason why there was a crowd when Jesus was riding into Jerusalem on a donkey was because he had just raised Lazarus from the dead - That's why they showed up -They were blown away by this miracle - And I went back and I just began to study his resurrection - and there was one thing that stood out to me - let's go to John chap 11 verse 39 - This is when Jesus is about to raise Lazarus from the dead - Pay attention to this It says "Take away the stone." that's Jesus talking - But then listen to what Martha says to him But Lord said Martha the sister of the dead man this is Lazarus's sister - By this time there is a bad odor for he's been in there 3 days - His body had to start decaying.
- Get ready because when we roll this stone away there's going to be a smell that comes out from a rotting and decaying body - I went to Matthew and I read about the resurrection of Jesus - I went to Mark and I read about the resurrection of Jesus - I went I went to Luke and I read about the resurrection of Jesus and I got to John - Not in any one of the four gospels does anybody talk about a smell coming from my savior's tomb - You ever had somebody say to you "Hey I went to the through the fire but I don't smell like smoke."
- Jesus went to the tomb and didn't come out smelling like death - What I'm trying to tell you is that the smell tells a story that even the smell is evidence.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “Follow The Evidence” Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- You know what it tells me It tells me a story of God's protection that what you are going through what you have been through doesn't have to define you.
- I come to declare today that for some of you as I was preaching about God moving stones the enemy was whispering her ear but he didn't move that one for you - Yeah I still I lost my job and I'm still trying to pick up the pieces – I'm still waiting on God to I ain't I can't find the fingerprints on this one - The smell lets me know that what you what you're going through - what you've been through - that it won't define you - that that your life won't be defined by bitterness, shame, and anger.
- My Bible tells me that not only is God with me - he's going before me - I mentioned earlier that the only conclusive evidence about my golfing ability is that you can smell I had been on the golf course - You ever been around somebody and they were trying to mask with cologne or perfume - that they had been partaking.
- The smell is evidence - A normal thief would try to conceal the evidence of the crime that they committed - But can y'all help me close – my God went and robbed the grave and left evidence to let you know - I did it I- It was me - I rose with all power and authority - I rose with all power in my hand - It was me - Yes I did that - I did that I left evidence for you to know what I did for you.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

Denial starts with a little distance." Where in your life have you noticed a "little distance" creeping in between you and God? How can you actively resist this drift?

Grace Christian School – Cary, NC Commencement Address - By Dr. Scott Huelin – Professor at Union University in Western, TN - Director of the Honors Community, Professor of English, Ph.D. - University of Chicago, M.A. - University of North Carolina, B.A. - University of North Carolina

"Our ultimate fulfilment can only be found in loving and being loved."

"Near the middle of the novel, Father Zosima is approached by a doctor to profess his sins – in particular his failures in loving.

Here is what the Dr. says to Father Zosima: "Well I love mankind. But, I am amazed at myself. The more I love mankind in general, the less I love in particular - that is individually as separate persons. In my dreams, I often go so far as to think passionately about serving mankind and maybe even would have gone to the cross for people if it were suddenly necessary. And yet, I am incapable of living in the same room with anyone for two days. This I know from experience. Because as soon as someone else is there and is close to me, his personality suppresses my self-esteem and restricts my freedom. In 24 hours, I begin to even hate the best of men – one because he takes too long to eat dinner and other because he has a cold and keeps blowing his nose. I have become the enemy of people the minute they touch me. On the other hand, it has always happened that the more I hate people individually, the more I love humanity as a whole."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

"Can any you relate to this doctor?"

I certainly can. I find it much easier to want to change the world and go across the seas to be a missionary or to rally around some great cause at home than go through the struggle and pain of loving my wife daily and in particular – and loving my two sons daily and particularly – and loving all of the students in my classes daily and particularly.

Well, if you can identify with the doctor's plight in any way, you are probably on the edge of your seat waiting for Father Zosima's counsel to the Dr.

Don't be surprised if it feels like a bucket of cold water in the face.

Father Zosima says this: "I am sorry that I cannot say anything more comforting but active love is a hard and fearful thing compared to love & dreams. Love & dreams thirst for immediate action quickly performed and with everyone watching and applauding. Indeed, love and dreams will go so far as to giving one's life provided that it does not take too long – and everyone is praising – and the matter is over quickly (or as we might say today we can post onto Instagram). Whereas, active love is labor and perseverance and for some people a whole science."

Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

"What does Father Zosima mean by a whole science of love?"

Well, in part I think he means a single-minded devotion to active love. I think that Father Zosima thinks that there is something more specific than that – there is a knowledge that comes through loving in an active way.

I think what Father Zosima means when he says the science of love is this: Unless we surrender ourselves completely and totally to love as Christ commands us to love as He loves, there are certain things that we cannot know. Or that we cannot know well.

Because in surrendering ourselves to the command to love in action and to love God and neighbor, we will learn how unloving we are and how loving He is.

Here is how the advice from Father Zosima to the Dr. concludes: "But I predict that in that very moment when you see with horror that despite all of your efforts you not only fail to come closer to your goal, and even seem to come father from it—and that is the moment when you suddenly reach your goal. And you will clearly hold over you the wonderful working power of the Lord. Who all the while has been loving you and all the while has been mysteriously guiding you."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "Follow The Evidence" Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

"You came to church on Sunday morning and you started to look at this video and some of you were like "Oh I can see he could plays golf?" That was compelling evidence of my golfing ability - but it wasn't conclusive There's a difference when I say follow the evidence - all of us are following something - You know you can scroll on social media - you got a lot of people and things that you're following - But today God told me to tell you that you need to make sure you're not just following compelling evidence but you're following conclusive evidence."

"Occasionally you got mad because you allowed yourself to collect evidence from someone else's life to tell a story about your own."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "Follow The Evidence" Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

"They're waving these palm branches - but where were those people when they begin to yell "Crucify him." It led me to believe that that that maybe people's praise and celebration isn't conclusive evidence of their heart - and how good of a friend they will be - I want to know if you're going to show up when all hell breaks loose in my life - I want to know if you're going to show up when I'm struggling - when I lost the job and I can't sleep - and it's keeping me up all night - I want to know more conclusive evidence as to the type of friend you want in your life."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "Follow The Evidence" Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

For Many of you have come today and the prayer that was on your heart was I need some proof – I need some that God is real - I need some proof that he hadn't forgot about me - I need some evidence today And you've been scrolling on social media - and some people have started to build a Tik Tok and Instagram theology about the church about the bride of Christ - But have you shown up to one of our campuses - Have you showed up to a popup - Have you showed up and seen people give hugs to people that desperately needed to be encouraged - Have you showed up and checked your kids into eKids - had them teach you about Jesus - Can we take a moment and thank God for the bride of Christ - love my church - I'm not saying we're perfect - but my church is praying for some people - My church is serving - My church shows up when disaster strikes - Don't let what Instagram fool you - The church is alive - God is moving - He's faithful - Thank you Lord.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "Follow The Evidence" Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

"Beware of the evidence you find in the dark - You can't see well when the lights aren't turned on - There's some evidence that will start to misconstrue the story that God is trying to bring together."

"Don't let what's broken blind you."

"Beware of the evidence you find at a distance. What has been misdiagnosed in your life because of the evidence that you gathered at a distance? You didn't get close enough to see exactly what was going on."

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "Follow The Evidence" Pastor Chet Pete - April 13, 2025

"You see the stone tells a story of God's power - The strips of linen they tell a story of God's pain - The pain that Jesus went through for you - You needed evidence - Look at the strips of linen - You might have walked in today and the evidence you needed you're like I'm not valuable - You maybe had even considered taking your own life - the strips of linen shows me God's pain - but it reveals my purpose - It lets me know that I have value -it lets me know no matter what compelling evidence the world tries to throw in my face - That Jesus loved me so much he died for me - Why would I walk around being shackled and chained when Jesus paid for my freedom? Why would I be walking around in desperate need of hope i- n desperate need of peace - He died for you -He took on the pain so you didn't have to - When I see the strips of linen it reminds me the pain that he went through - Lets me know that my life has purpose."

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

From Evidence that demands a verdict by Josh McDowell

Christianity is either everything for mankind, or nothing. It is either the highest certainty or the greatest delusion. . . . But if Christianity be everything for mankind, it is important for every man/women to be able to give a good reason for the hope that is in him in regard to the eternal verities (fundamental truth) of the Christian faith. To accept these verities in an unthinking way, or to receive them simply on authority, is not enough for the intelligent and stable faith.

The basis apologetic thesis: there is an infinite, all wise, all powerful, all loving God who has revealed himself by means natural and supernatural in creation, in the nature of man/women, in the history of Israel, and the Church, in the pages of holy scripture, in the incarnation of God in Christ, and in the heart of the believe of the gospel.

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

Not blind faith:

Per John Stott: “We cannot pander to a man’s intellectual arrogance, but we must cater to his intellectual integrity.”

Truth is knowable and there are absolutes.

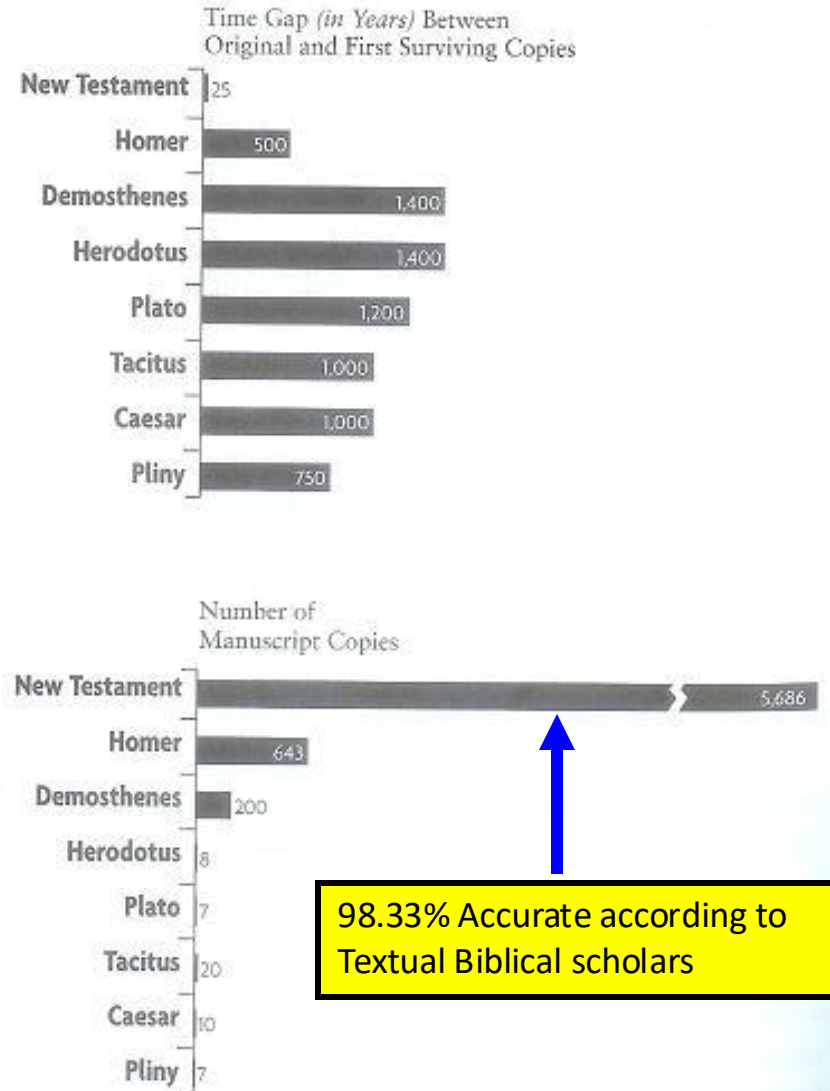
Per Norman Geisler and Frank Turek. “Our postmodern culture has done a number on the idea of truth. It teaches that truth and morality are relative, that there is no such thing as absolute truth. To the intellectual elite dominating our universities and the mainstream media, these ideas are considered enlightened and progressive, even though we all intuitively understand that that absolute truth exists, and more importantly, we all conduct our lives with that recognition. If you encounter one of these “geniuses” who is so certain that truth is a social construct . . . ask him if he would be willing to test his theory by leaping from the tallest building around.”

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

Myth vs. legend vs. reality:

- New Testament document consist of 27 documents in 27 different scrolls
- Nine different writers
- Written over a 20 to 50 year period
- As last count, there were about 5,700 hand written Greek manuscripts of the New Testament (despite the efforts of the Roman Emperor Diocletian from 303 to 311 AD).
- The most reliable body of literature of antiquity

Reliability of the New Testament Compared to Other Ancient Documents



What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

What is Apocrypha?

From Evidence that demands a verdict by Josh McDowell:

1. Not part of the canon – rejected as part of the canon (the standard bible)
2. Dubious authenticity, inaccurate, lack Scripture's divine character
3. Individual books of the Apocrypha:
 - I Esdras (150 BC)
 - 11 Esdras (A.D. 100) – Martin Luther said to have thrown into the Elbe River
 - Tobit (2nd Century B.C)
 - Judith (middle of 2nd Century B.C) – Defeat of the Assyrian Army – Yeeks!
 - Additions to Esther (about 100 BC)
 - Ecclesiasticus (about 180 B.C). Still widely used in Anglican circles. Quoted several times by John Wesley
 - Baruch (about A.D. 100)
 - 13th chapter of the book of Daniel – The trial of Susanna
 - 14th chapter of the book of Daniel
 - The Song of the Three Hebrew Children
 - Prayer of Manasseh (2nd century B.C)
 - I Maccabees and II Maccabees (1st century B.C.)

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

What is Apocrypha?

From Evidence that demands a verdict by Josh McDowell:

1. Not canonical – rejected as part of the canon (the standard bible)
2. Dubious authenticity, inaccurate, lack Scripture's divine character
3. New Testament Apocrypha:
 - Epistle of Pseudo-Barnabas (A.D. 70-79)
 - Epistle of Corinthians (A.D. 96)
 - Ancient Homily (2nd Epistle of Clement) (A.D. 120-140)
 - Shepherd of Hermas (A.D. 115-140)
 - Didache, Teaching of the Twelve (A.D. 100-120)
 - Apocalypse of Peter (A.D. 150)
 - The Acts of Pual and Thecla (A.D. 170)
 - **Plus many many more**

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

Top Ten reasons that support that the New Testament writers relentlessly stuck to the truth:

1. Numerous embarrassing details about themselves – The Principle of Embarrassment – the tendency of authors to leave out the stuff that makes them look bad.
2. Numerous embarrassing details and difficult saying of Jesus
3. Included demanding sayings of Jesus
4. Carefully distinguish Jesus words from their own
5. Include events about the Resurrection that they would not have invented.
6. Included at least 30 historically confirmed public figures
7. Include divergent details – a common fact among eye witnesses.
8. Challenge their readers to check verifiable facts, even facts about miracles
9. Describe miracles like other historical events with simple unembellished accounts.
10. Abandoned their long held scared beliefs and practices, adopted new ones, and did not deny their testimony under persecution or threat of death.

What is apologetics: Greek word apologia = defense. Per Wilbur Smith: A verbal defense, a speech in defense of what one has done or of truth which one believes.

You do not have enough faith to be an Atheist by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek.

“In other words, God has provided enough evidence in this life to convince anyone willing to believe, yet has also left some ambiguity so as not compel the unwilling. In this way, God give us the opportunity either to love him or reject him without violating our freedom. In fact the purpose of this life is to make the choice freely and without coercion. **For love by definition, must be freely given.** It can not be coerced.”

See C.S. Lewis in the Screw Tape Letters;

“the Irresistible and the indisputable are the two weapons which the very nature of God’s scheme forbids him to use. Merely to override a human will (as His felt presence in any but the faintest and most mitigated degree would certainly do) would be for Him useless. He (God) can not ravish. He can only woo.”

Back up slides

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "The Prayer That Repairs" by Pastor Steven Furtick on February 16, 2025

"The prayer that re-pairs. See how me and Holly are standing together like this? We're a pair. That's a visual illustration for you and Jesus. You keep thinking you are paired with people, so when people leave, you think it's over. You are a joint heir with Jesus. See Hebrews 7:25: ""Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." There is the prayer that prevents, there is the prayer that prepares, but I have a feeling I'm speaking to a few people online today, and even a few in the room, who's prayer didn't prevent it. Prayer didn't prepare. Like Simon, Simon, you are going through something right now, or you've been through something, where you need the prayer that re-pairs. The prayer that re-pairs is this: "Lord, if everything else goes away, if everything else is sifted, don't let this trial take my faith." Because if my faith doesn't fail, I can make it. If my faith doesn't fail, I can come back from this. If my faith doesn't fail, I can get resourceful. If my faith doesn't fail, I can reach out. If my faith doesn't fail, I can pivot. So, just like the Savior prayed for Peter, we want to right now pray for you, those of you who are "Simon, Simon." Don't let the pressure get the best of me." This is the prayer that brings you back to God."

And from his fullness, we have all received” - John chapter 1, verse 16: additional commentary by Charles Spurgeon: “There is a fullness of blessings of every sort and shape; a fullness of grace to pardon, of grace to regenerate, of grace to sanctify, of grace to preserve, and of grace to perfect. There is a fullness at all times; a fullness of comfort and affliction, a fullness of guidance and prosperity. Come believer, and get all of your needs supplied; ask largely in your receive largely, for this fullness is exhaustible and is treasured up where all the needy may reach it, even in Jesus - Emmanuel God is with us.

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Daily devotional Spurgeon quote from 12/26/2024

“The reed is spongy and hollow - there is no substance in it. The reed lives in water and owes its very existence to the moisture. Let the water drain away, and the reed withers - do I only serve God when I am in good company - when faith is profitable and respectful? Do I love the Lord only when I am enjoying comforts from His hands? The reed cannot grow without water - but the Lord's plants can and do flourish, even when there's a drought - A godly man (and woman) often grows best when his/her circumstances are daunting - Lord - let me find my life in you and not in the shifting sands of this world's favor or gain.”

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”

Outstanding theology Here – I really lean in when Pastor Furtick talks about Gideon in Judges 6:

“When God Goes In” by Pastor Steven Furtick – March 27, 2023

“Make Peace With Your Strength” by Pastor Steven Furtick – April 2, 2023

“Breaking The Bondage Of Wrong Belief” by Pastor Steven Furtick on 8/11/2024

Power quote from Pastor Furtick on 8/11/2024: *“They have come into a land whose customs have become their captivity. They have come into a land that God gave them, and the customs of that land have become their captivity. The Lord says, “Gideon, I want to use you to lead a revolt and a revolution. I’m going to enable you, strengthen you, supply you, and give the enemy into your hand, and you will strike them all down.” Gideon said, “Me? I’m the least in my family. My clan is the least in the nation. Why me?” God said, “Why you? Because me.” God turns 2s into 10s instantly. Only God can do that. The beauty of this is God doesn't say, “Gideon, I’m going to put you through a preparation process. This is going to take three years to get it done.” He has actually been preparing Gideon while Gideon has been hidden. Do you know God has been preparing you while you have been hidden too? Do you know God has been giving you tools, resources, lessons, words, and confirmations while you have been in the cave of what you perceive to be your abandonment and wasted season?”*

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Gift Of Grief” by Lisa Harper – on July 7, 2024

Awesome prayer by Lisa Harper on 7/7/2024 – in the sanctuary, most of the congregation is standing – those in grief are sitting – remarkable moment:

- Closing Prayer: “I'm near to those whose lives feel crushed today - this low point in your life - if you bring it to the Lord – He will lead you to a place of intimacy - a place of personal revival - that you probably haven't had the faith to carry – lower your pretense in this family of God - For those of you who are grieving - if the Holy Spirit confirms - would you be audacious enough to even right now say thank you God I'm going to choose to be grateful for this grief? - I can't see around the corner of my circumstances - yet I really do believe You will answer and I really do believe you're enough - and I really do believe you're close to the brokenhearted - and so I'm going to choose right now - I'm going to say thank you - I don't feel it yet - but I'm going to say thank you for this grief because somehow - some way you're going to use even this dead-dog of a season to make me more dependent on you - to make me lean into my brothers and sisters more closely - you're going to build in me a heart of flesh instead of allowing me to hide my heart of stone - King Jesus come and bring Revival - King Jesus come and bring healing - Thank you God.”