



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
December 16, 2012
Christmas – *MORE than a baby in a manger*

desert breeze community church

“Mighty God” John 11:1-46

Sooner or later everyone will be shaken by circumstances that defy explanation making you feel profoundly abandoned by God. There is only one thing worse than disappointment w/ God & that's disappointment without God. Ps91:1-2

See Life's Difficulties in Light of Our Mighty God:

- It is Perfect Love that motivates Jesus to do what He does in our life. Vv2-3, 5; Psalm9:9-10
- It is Infinite Wisdom that Jesus knows what we most need for our life. V6; Rom11:33
- It is Unlimited Power that Jesus can & will do what we most need for our life.vv25-26; Lam3:37-38
- What we most need is that which gives us the deepest and most durable joy. V14-15; John 4:13-14, 7:35
- The deepest & most durable joy comes from seeing & savoring the Glory of God. vv4, 40; 2Cor3:18, 4:6

Let Life's Difficulties Press your Heart toward Our Mighty God:

- Beware of the paralysis of analysis – speculating all the “Why's.” vv25-26, 33; 1Cor13:12; Rom. 11:33-36; Isa. 55:8-9)
- He understands the full weight of our pain. Vv33, 35-36; Heb. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:3-4
- You can have great faith and still weep. Spiritual maturity and great sorrow go hand in hand. It's about being fully alive. V35; Ps. 51:6, 42:9-10, 58:6-9, Ps. 13:1-2
- If you don't let it out (grieve it), it is still in there somewhere. Rom12:15; 1Thess4:13; Ps. 55:22

- True faith is not without doubts, questions & fears but it's bringing your doubts, questions & fears to the LORD. Vv21, 32; Mark9:24; Pro3:5-6
- Jesus is the resurrection and the life, but we still need the help of others to remove the grave clothes. vv25, 44; Heb.3:12-13

“In my deepest wound I saw your glory, and it dazzled me.” St. Augustine



Growing

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- 1) What is the most difficult thing you have ever gone through? What helped you to get through it? Sooner or later everyone will be so shaken by circumstances that defy explanation making you feel profoundly abandoned by God. Explain.
- 2) Read John 11:1-46. What stands out to you in this story? What did Jesus do when He heard about Lazarus (v6)? How would you respond if you heard that a good friend was sick? How important is it that we trust God's perfect love, infinite wisdom and unlimited power when it comes to God giving to us what we most need working through our circumstances?
- 3) What did Jesus say was the purpose of Lazarus' sickness (vv4, 14-15, 40)? When have you thought you had a better plan for your life than the one God was working out? Why would no pain be too great to endure if it brought us into a greater experience of the beauty & glory of Christ?
- 4) Life's difficulties can either come between you and God or press you nearer His heart. Explain. How can the paralysis of analysis keep you from God? How can knowing that God understands the full weight of our pain help us in difficulty (Vv33, 35-36; Heb. 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)? Why is it that you can have great faith and still weep (v35)?
- 5) What does it mean that if you don't let it out (grieve it), it is still in there somewhere (Heb12:15; Rom12:15; 1Thess4:13; Ps. 55:22)? Why is true faith not without doubts, questions & fears but taking them to Christ? Take your doubts/questions/fears to the Lord in prayer.