

Scripture: God Speaks

Clarus Weekend

Sermons Outline

Hopefully you will have had people in your community group in each service. Please have people from each sermon summarize the sermon to the rest of the group. Use some of the notes below to help you preach to one another.

Discussion 1: "Receiving and Resounding God's Word" - 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

(G. K. Beale)

God has a purpose for pain and suffering, both individual and corporately.

1. We are called to follow Jesus and the Apostles in being joyously faithful through tribulation. **Acts 5:40-41**
2. When we are joyously faithful in suffering, we become models of the faith for others. **Acts 16:22-25** *"...and the prisoners were listening to them"*
3. *" , so that we need not say anything."* And when we are joyously faithful in suffering, we relieve the load of evangelism from the shoulders of church leaders. We should all have both a verbal and a lifestyle witness.

In a sense we are like [cookie making] molds. The mold is nothing in itself (not something you'd hang on the wall... but points to and is intended for something else. *"We are cross shaped molds making cross shaped people."*

In suffering, God may be removing poor/inadequate sources of joy from your life in order to point you to the greater source--Christ.

Discussion 2: "Like Sheep without a Shepherd" - Mark 6:30-44 (Carl Trueman)

We can so easily gloss over some texts in Scripture... Carl Trueman took us deeper into the meaning of "... like sheep without a shepherd"

"Never gloss over Scripture."

Key texts:

^{ESV} **John 10:11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Selfish/bad shepherds:

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 34:1-6**

The Good Shepherd Promised: (note all the I WILL statements)

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 34:7-16** "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ ^aAs I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because ^bmy sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD, ^aBehold, I am against the shepherds, and ^bI will require my sheep at their hand and ^cput a stop to their feeding the sheep. ^dNo longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. ^eI will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them. ¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: ^aBehold, I, I ^bmyself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on ^aa day of clouds and ^bthick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples ^aand gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on ^bthe mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ ^aI will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. ^bThere they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ ^aI myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, ^zand I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ ^aI will seek the lost, ^band I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and ^cthe fat and the strong I will destroy. ¹ I will feed them in justice.

also: Numbers 27:15-18; 1Kings 22:16ff; 2 Sam 5:2; Gen 48:15

"We should never lose track of the fact that Jesus Christ is our Great Shepherd."

^{ESV} **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Discussion 3: Clarus – Mark 6:30-44 (Carl Trueman)

If you were at Clarus

- Please consider sending us feedback on what you thought was good and edifying and where we can improve it. clarus@desertspringschurch.org
- Share some of the more eye-opening moments with one another.
 - *The nature of preaching...*
 - *The words of the 2nd thief on the cross...*
 - *The Great Tribulation... when **did** it start? (the premier scholar on Revelation raised some eyebrows--and cleared some thinking)*
 - *so many more!...*

If you were **not** at Clarus

- Why not?