

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. If you have your bible, turn to that BLANK PAGE between the OT and the NT. It represents 400 years of silence. This is a time when God did not speak through His prophets. It's also known as the Intertestamental Period. There were many world events that happened, but God wasn't speaking the traditional way.
2. Have you ever felt like you were living on a blank page? You couldn't hear God's voice. You didn't know if you were going in the right direction. You weren't sure about your purpose. You were living in the "inbetween" of life...talk about it!

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read Malachi 4:1-6.

Here's what happened on that blank page...There was a succession of five nations that ruled Palestine: Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, and Rome. Many things occurred that made the time just right for Jesus' ministry and the writing of the New Testament. For example, the Greek language spread throughout the world, providing a common language, and the Roman period provided a time of unprecedented peace, magnificent highways and roads, and uniform laws that aided the spread of the gospel by the first century church. The Jews developed a new zeal for the Law. As a result, several new parties arose, including the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Scribes. And new institutions were established, including the synagogue and the Sanhedrin.

4. Jon Bloom said, "All of God's saints, if allowed to live long enough, are led into the lonely, disorienting, weary wilderness. And while there, we lament. And since laments are often better sung than said, it's always been the poets and songwriters who help us most."

Can you identify with this quote? Talk about it!

5. Read Psalm 13:1-2. Can you identify with this prayer?
6. Pastor Ruben said, sometimes God is silent because: We have refused to turn from our sin. Because we haven't been obedient to the last thing He told us. But other times...Because the timing is not right.

Can you identify with any of these possibilities?

Someone said, "The timing of God is just as important as the purpose of God."

What are your thoughts?

7. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1.
 - a. How does this compare with this quote from Steven Furtick? "Our challenge is to synchronize our faith with God's schedule."
 - b. Compare it with Acts 1:6-7.
8. According to Romans 8:28, what will work out, and for whom?
9. Someone said, "Don't say God is silent when your bible is closed." It's important to continue to read your bible, even when your living on the blank page.
 - a. What does Galatians 4:4 say about the blank page between the Old and New Testament?
 - b. What does it say for our lives and our circumstances?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Trust God is leading even though He's not speaking.
- God will show you the significance of the blank page...when He turns the page.
- Don't disconnect from God because nothing is happening.