

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. If you could change anything in your life right now, what would you change?

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.

2. Read Ephesians 3:1-13. Verse 13, starts off with the word, "so" (depending on your bible version).
 - a. What thought is that word referring to?
 - b. Paul was in a prison in Rome when he wrote this. It seems like he should have been the one receiving a letter from someone outside of prison to encourage him. Do you have this kind of confidence in God?
3. Read verse 13 one more time.
 - a. What is reason given that someone may "lose heart?"
 - b. How do trials and problems affect our faith?
4. The words, "lose heart" come from a Greek word that means: To act or behave badly in some circumstance. To give in to evil. To be weary in or become tired of doing something. The verb means, "to become good for nothing," "to grow faint," "to be discouraged", and even "to be a coward." Do any of these meanings surprise you? Why or why not?
5. Jesus taught a famous parable, called "The Parable of the Sower." It's a story of a farmer scattering seed (Which is the Word of God), on four different types of soil (hearts). One of the grounds is called a "rocky ground". How does this type of ground relate to losing heart? Please read Matthew 13:20-21. Pastor Ruben said, "The depth of your roots will determine your strength in the storm." How do you grow deep roots at a practical level, so that you can handle the storms of your life?
6. Everyone is at a different spiritual place. Some people can handle bigger storms than others. It all depends on the length of their spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus. Finish this sentence: "I

would still follow Jesus and still commit to His church, even if this happened in my life
_____”

7. Please read Deuteronomy 20:3. What does this say about the enemy and battle we face in life? Is our battleground internal or external?
8. Simon Peter is known to deny Christ three times. But, Jesus tells Peter something before it happens. What can we learn from this conversation and apply to our lives? Please read Luke 22:31-32.
9. In the New Testament, everytime the words “lose heart” are mentioned, the word “Not” precedes it. For example, Do **not** become discouraged. Do **not** lose your enthusiasm. Do **not** lose heart. Do **not** grow weary or tired. Do **not** faint. Do **not** grow slack. Do **not** despair. What does this say about God’s loves for you?
10. Compare this with 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; and Isaiah 40:30-31.

Application

Below are the main points of the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- The depth of your roots will determine your strength in the storm
- God will not put you through a storm you can’t handle
- Don’t be afraid. God is with you. That’s enough.
- Use your spiritual failures to fuel you to another level of obedience to God!
- Don’t let your fall determine your faith. Use your faith to determine your future.
- The goal of the devil is to use problems to shake you.
- The goal of Christ is you stand firm in the midst of the problem.
- We don’t lose heart because Jesus Christ has overcome this world!