

Message Study Guide

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

Warming up

1. What do you look forward to the most during the Christmas season?

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. Please read Matthew 11:1-6, Why do you think John asked this question and why would Jesus respond with these words?
3. Pastor Ruben said, "We question our faith when circumstances don't meet our spiritual expectations." Have you ever said any of the following thoughts to yourself? "I didn't think it would take this long." "Why is this happening to me?" "I'm not sure if I really heard from God." "I'm not sure what God's purpose is anymore." "I'm not sure what I believe anymore."
4. There are three truths about the Olive Tree. a) The Olive tree will not produce fruit unless it experiences the harsh winds of the East and the refreshing winds of the West. b) Once the tree produces fruit, it is not useful unless it has gotten rid of its hardness. c) The third truth is the most valuable part of the tree is not the olive, but what comes out of the olive. When the olive is hard-pressed it produces oil. How does this story relate to our everyday life and what lessons can you take away from this story of the Olive Trees?
5. Read Isaiah chapter 34 & 35. When Jesus responded to John the Baptist, He was quoting a prophecy in Isaiah 35. What's the primary message of Isaiah 34 and what's the message of Isaiah 35?
6. Please read Isaiah chapter 35. What are the first two verses talking about?
7. Isaiah 35:3 is talked about in the Letter to the Hebrews.

8. Please read Hebrews 12:7-13. What jumps out to you about this passage?
 - a. How does the following quote relate to this passage?
9. In the Book of Revelation, there will also be a river of healing. Please read Revelation 22:1-5.
10. Isaiah 35:8-10, talk about a highway. What is it?
 - a. Compare the passage above with this quote from Charles Spurgeon, "Engineering has done much to tunnel mountains, and bridge abysses; but the greatest triumph of engineering is that which made a way from sin to holiness, from death to life, from condemnation to perfection. Who could make a road over the mountains of our iniquities but Almighty God? None but the Lord of love would have wished it; none but the God of wisdom could have devised it; none but the God of power could have carried it out."

Application

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

- How you care for your injured soul will determine how you will walk before God and others.
- Somethings may just need time, a repentant heart, and a touch from God...to get better.
- God can bring life and healing to the most hopeless places of your life.