



07.14.2013 // GROUP DISCUSSION FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE // BY Brian Zibell

ITS NOT OVER

START

Have you ever bought something you saw on an infomercial? If so, what was it and did you even use it?

SHARE

Welcome to our series, "Yard Sale." It's summertime and we know that means backyard barbecues, hot weather and the inevitable yard sale. Yard sales are a glorious time, where we try to get rid of all that stuff we don't need that we thought was so important just a few years ago. Isn't that just like our lives? We can fill them up with so much junk; it's hard to tell what is important and what's not. So let's take inventory and clean house during this series and get rid of all that junk and see what God wants to say to us about our lives.

This week's message is entitled "It's Not Over." This week we look at the story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Not only their story; but also what the disciples got to experience as they watched Jesus go into a messy situation and turn it around for His Glory. It is no surprise to God that we go through troubles in life, but God also commands us to be strong and to not be discouraged:

John 16:33

"...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Joshua 1:9

...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

What kind of "troubles" do you think we experience in this world?

Why do you think God continually encourages his people throughout scripture to fear not and to remember that He is with us?

Have you ever had a time where you felt like you were in a desert? What did you learn during that time?



GROW

We all have difficult times to go through in life and sometimes we ask questions like: If God loves me then why did this happen? God, I asked you to be on time, but you were late? God, I thought you had the power to help me? When Mary and Martha experienced great loss, they asked those exact questions. Instead of getting answers right away, they had Jesus to comfort them. Read John 11:17-37 and we will look at two important sections:

John 11:32

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

John 11:33-37

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus already knew he was going to do a miracle, so why would he have wept with Mary and Martha?

Why did Jesus say that he was the resurrection and the life? Why was it important that Martha heard that in her pain?

Why do you think God allowed someone he deeply loved to go through such a difficult situation?

Has God used a difficult situation in your life to bring you closer to Him?

MOVE

Brian spoke about how we can trust God in the mess. We can trust his love in the mess. We can trust his timing in the mess. We can trust his power in the mess. So many times in life, we come to points where it feels difficult to trust God's love, timing and power.

Read John 11:38-44 and let's camp on these two sections.

John 11:38-40

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man,



“by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

John 11:43-44

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

What do you think people were thinking when Jesus told them to take away the stone?

Why does Jesus repeatedly talk about the glory of God and the importance of belief?

Which of these areas do you most need to trust God in right now?

- Trusting God’s love
- Trusting God’s timing
- Trusting God’s power

PRAY

Life is a journey of ups, downs, victories, and successes. This Life Group is created to celebrate with those who are celebrating, and grieve with those who are grieving. Wherever we are on our journey, God unites us when we bear each other’s burdens. Spend some time praying for each other’s burdens, hopes, and journey toward spiritual growth.