

Where Is God?
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
April 5, 2020

Big Idea: We need a revival in our faith, family and community that works.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” **James 4:8a (NLT2)**

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "**Hosanna to the Son of David!**" "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**" "**Hosanna in the highest!**" **Matthew 21:9 (NIV)**

Where Is God?

1. God Is With Us _____

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be **betrayed** to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be **mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified**. But on the third day He will be **raised from the dead.**” **Matthew 20:17-19 (NLT2)**

“From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?”

Matthew 27:45-46 (NIV)

“No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is **revealed** in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:37-39 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. God Is With Us _____

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.” **Matthew 27:50-51 (NIV)**

“Even though I walk through the valley of the **shadow of death**, I will fear no evil, for **you are with me**; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” **Psalms 23:4 (NIV)**

“Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became **flesh and blood**. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.” Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.” **Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

3. God Is With Us _____

“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a **merciful and faithful** high priest in service to God, and that he might **make atonement** for the sins of the people.” **Hebrews 2:17 (NIV)**

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us **hold firmly to what we believe**. This High Priest of ours understands our **weaknesses**, for He faced **all** of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come **boldly** to the throne of our **gracious God**. There we will receive His **mercy**, and we will find **grace** to help us when we need it most.” **Hebrews 4:13-16 (NLT2)**

And just as each person is destined to die once and **after that comes judgment**, so also Christ died **once for all time** as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to **bring salvation** to all who are eagerly waiting for Him.” **Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

- **What is God asking you to do in response to this crisis?**

My next right step, I will:

- [] Release my fears and receive God’s comfort in Jesus
- [] Accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. Text “believe” to 858-682-2424
- [] Let us know if you are interested in being Baptized May 17

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Open in Prayer.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your family or small group. Try Zoom.

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your family or small group thinking.

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

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Read Matthew 21:9

What happened the week before Jesus was crucified?

How can people change their minds so quickly?

Where Is God?

1. God Is With Us In The Worst Of Times

Read Matthew 20:17-19

If Jesus knew this was going to happen to him, what does this passage tell you about his resolve?

Read Romans 8:37-39

What item of separation mentioned here is most threatening to you?

What phrase from this passage particularly strikes you and why?

2. God Is With Us When We Face Death

Read Matthew 27:50-53

The Romans crucified many people. How was Jesus' death extraordinary?

Read Life Application Study Bible.

27:51 The Temple had three main parts: the courts, the Holy Place (where only the priests could enter), and the Most Holy Place (where only the high priest could enter, and only once a year, to atone for the sins of the nation—Leviticus 16:1-34). The curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn in two at Christ's death, symbolizing that the barrier between God and humanity was removed. Now all people are free to approach God because of Christ's sacrifice for our sins (see Hebrews 9:1-14; 10:19-22).

27:52, 53 Christ's death was accompanied by at least four miraculous events: darkness, the tearing in two of the curtains in the Temple, an earthquake, and dead people rising from their tombs. Jesus' death, therefore, could not have gone unnoticed. Everyone knew something significant had happened.

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

Why did Jesus become flesh and blood like us?

What did Jesus accomplish?

What do you fear about death?

3. God Is With Us Extending Mercy

Read Hebrews 2:17 And Hebrews 9:27-28

What is the difference about the way Jesus made atonement and the way the priests mediate atonement?

Read Hebrews 4:13-16

Has this crisis strengthened or weekend your faith?

What do you need to come boldly to God about?

If you were to die today, are you confident that God would let you into heaven? Why or why not?

➤ **What is God asking you to do in response to this crisis?**

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.
