

## “Sandcastles”

-Pastor Damian Mericka / 29 MAR 2020

Series: Kingdom Vision 20/20

### Going Deeper Questions

- What stood out to you from this message and why? Is it easier to tell people about our faith or to show them our faith?
- What are some of your favorite memories from family vacations? Did they ever seem like a lot of work and cost for so something that went by too fast? Is your joy found in what was done or more in who those times were spent with?
- What role does Jesus play in our relationship with God? (**1 Peter 1:2**) What do we have outside of His blood? What do we have because of His Blood over our lives?
- Why is testing good for our faith? Check out **Matthew 6:19-24**. Sometimes it can get tricky figuring out where our heart focus is until suffering touches it. Like a cavity that is felt for the first time by something cold on the tooth. How has your own heart weathered under the testing time of quarantine?
- Read **Romans 5:12**. Why is sin in the world? Why does suffering touch all of us because of Adam? Are Hope and Faith necessary outside a world of sin and suffering? Why or why not?
- How does **2 Peter 3:9-13** show that God is all powerful and all loving? What happens when God removes sin? Yes, suffering will be gone, but who in your life will not be in eternity with God and you. In this, can we sense the weight on God to continue allowing suffering to exist for a short time longer?
- I used the illustration of sandcastles to show how love exists, is cultivated and outlasts what is built during that time. My

daughters knew their value and worth by how I do life with them as God does us.

- Peter is encouraging those suffering to see God is present and working in this momentary season; how does this affirm your sense of value and worth in God’s eyes?
- Peter is writing this letter near the end of his life; what impact do you think **Luke 22:31-34** had in helping him endure times of hardship?
- Are you living your life, building your sandcastles with awareness that God is with you? Are you ok when those castles get washed away? Do you believe everything here is preparation for what is to come, that which is eternal? How does this impact how you endure times of suffering?
- *Is your life more about what you are doing or who you are doing this life with?* Your answer to this is a gage to the witness you have to those around you. Prayerfully allow His Spirit to examine and reveal our hearts for His Glory- suffering refines and defines the beauty of the Gospel through the uniqueness of our lives lived with Jesus.