

## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

- When were you lost and someone came back to find you?
  - What was the feeling you had at the first sight of your rescuer?
- What is something so valuable that you “went back to get it” or “you rescued it”? (got dirty, was willing to look stupid to do whatever it would take to get it back)
- Describe what the losing and the finding felt like.
- What is something that you left or lost and did not care enough about it to get it back?
- What does it say about what we mean to God or how much He values and loves us that He is coming back to get us?

## 2. Worship: The Gracious Heart – Grieves with Hope, Hopes with Grief

I love being a Christian, the wholeness, the honesty, the wonder, the sadness, the hope, the grieving, the anticipation, the affliction, the promises, the chores, the glories, the before, the now and the yet to come. The gracious heart of the Christian knows both the wonder of a relationship with the Living One and ONLY Jesus now that is fueling a passion for the New Heaven and New Earth to come as well as the sure knowledge of the eternal perpetual ever increasing torment waiting those who will be quarantined in Hell who have refused to trust in Jesus. We are not silly or hopeless. We live in a weird emotional state of Grief with Hope and Hope with Grief which can explain why we look and live so strange. Our hope is never separated from our grieving and our grieving is never separated from our hoping.

Gri(HOPE)ef, or HO(Grief)PE – Our HOPE is always greater than our grief but we grieve.

After reading the following passages, worship in the Hope of Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> coming yet grieving for those who do not know Him. Or start the worship Father, Holy Spirit and Jesus in grief and sadness for those who you cannot reach with the good news of Jesus but Hoping in Holy Spirit can!

Worship In Hopeful Grieving.

John 14:1–7

[1] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. [4] And you know the way to where I am going.” [5] Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” [6] Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [7] If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” (ESV)

## Worship in Grief Hoping - Luke 20:9–18 The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

[9] And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. [10] When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. [11] And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. [12] And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. [13] Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ [14] But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ [15] And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? [16] He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” [17] But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone’?”

[18] Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” (ESV)

### 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD for His true goodness and power to conquer evil. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for already conquering death and hell in Christ, and His promised victory over all evil at Jesus’ Return.
2. How have you lived in ignorance of how spiritual forces of evil are real, or in fear that they will overcome you? Confess your fear and unbelief asking Jesus to cleanse you and to secure you in His love and power.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He is trustworthy by what He has done and for what He has promised. Thank Him for already winning out over sin, death, Satan and hell, *and* for His guarantee that He is coming back for us!
4. Who do you know that is overwhelmed by suffering and evil? Read Revelation 21:1-5, and pray for them asking Jesus, the Lord Almighty, to give them peace in His rule and power.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the certainty of Jesus’ reign and future return. Pray for sobriety, perspective and hope under Jesus’ rule while you continue to live faithfully for Him.

#### 4. Sermon Reflection:

**Proclamation of God’s Word – Title:** The Return of Christ, **Teacher:** Tim Rice  
**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV)

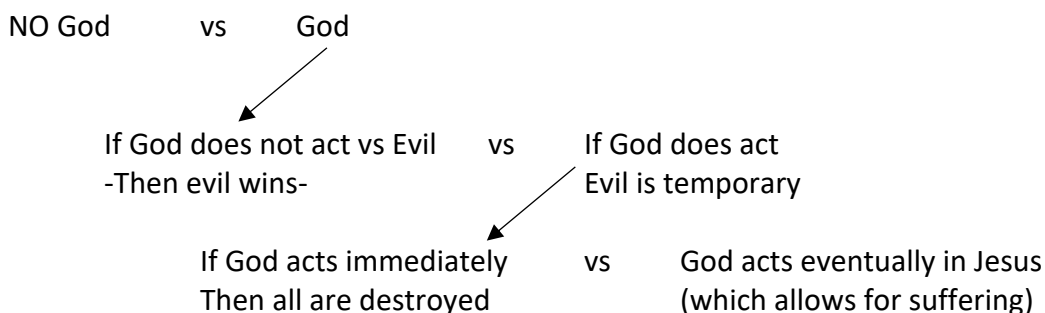
<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Introduction – Sermon Icebreaker

- How much of your spiritual history includes teachings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus
  - Very little – He is coming back and that is all you need to know.
  - Extreme – He is coming back and that is a majority of what was stressed in the teaching.
  - Nothing – Jesus coming back was not really all that important.

#### The Problem of Unchecked Evil – Evil wins! Evil dominates! A Monstrous Existence

Tim’s Chart



What if God did not call evil to account and destroy it?

- All is Dark.
- The strong eat the weak
- Monstrous Effects

Example: Think of an area of your life that is not checked or you are not held accountable.

What is it like?

Reflections on evil

- Do you hate evil?
- What works of evil do you hate the most? In others? In you?

### **The Remedy of Jesus' Return – Evil Arrested**

Jesus is coming back to arrest or stop evil.

- Have someone tell Tim's Air Craft Carrier example.

How: How will Jesus arrest evil?

- By His Power and Glory
  - With Cry of Command
  - In a Voice that shakes the earth
  - Announcing the Battle is ON!

With whom: With whom will He arrest evil?

- He is coming with His Angels and Saints
- As lightning flashes

For what end: Arrest all evil and Vindicate all good

- He is coming to make everything right.
- Collect every soul for judgement.

Reflection:

- What do you expect to feel?
- What do you expect to happen?
- What do you think is coming?

### **The Future's Impact, NOW – Jesus' future = our present composure**

How should we live?

- Soberly, Humbly and Hopeful
  - Soberly – clear headed, aware, alert, on our game
  - Humbly – Boasting in His Work not ours, as beggars who found bread, sinners forgiven
  - Hopeful – Jesus came and worked for us against evil. Jesus will come again to destroy evil for us forever.
- With Perspective:
  - An Eternal
  - This world is temporal
- Hope – Confident in the Promises of Jesus
  - Encourage others with these words
- Hungry – Hungry for Him - God, Father, Holy Spirit and Jesus

Reflections – Where do you need to ask Holy Spirit to give you repentance and faith?

- Are you hopeful or sour? silly or sober? In love with Him or using Him for His stuff?

## 5. Mission: Goal: Finish YOUR Work with No regrets.

- Evaluating The Mission of God for YOU
  - Does your mission match your passions and gifts?
  - Where do you hate the effects of evil most?
  - Are you somehow involved in fighting against evil where you hate it the most?
  - Are you hopeful and energized for your work of smashing the works of evil this coming week?
  - What habits or practices need to change for you to joyfully be “in it for the long haul”?
    - Do you need more rest?
    - Do you need more exercise?
    - Do you need to do less?
    - Do you need to do more?
    - Do you need more love from God and for your neighbors?
    - Do you need renewal and revival?