

9.11.11

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan Crist

Most Americans remember what they were doing when they heard that terrorists attacked NYC on September 11, 2001. Since the offices in the World Trade Centre held fifty thousand workers and thousands of tourists, news reports initially estimated that tens of thousands had died. As the crisis unfolded, people began asking “Where is God?” and “How could God allow something so horrible to happen?” Church attendance increased and flags thickly dotted the landscape.

In the end, less than three thousand died in the Twin Towers that day. Don’t get me wrong. For every family that lost a loved one, that loss is horrific! But we cannot forget the thousands that God did save that day. Stories came out of people that got caught in traffic and were late to work or those that made it out of the towers with just seconds to spare. One man described his running down the stairs in the towers as though he was flying, because he felt like he barely touched the steps. A fireman called the survival of everyone in his firehouse a miracle, since they were one of the first responders on the scene that day. All of these examples show God’s protection over the lives of so many.

Dan said, “God’s heart is redemption.” Joseph said it this way: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Genesis 50:20) And Paul wrote in Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Paul was so confident of God’s goodness that he wrote the words “we know” instead of “I think.” This distinction is important to me. I have often been amazed at how God turns difficult trials in my life into things that He uses to help me grow. Personal struggles have made my convictions stronger and my dependence on God even greater. God’s forgiveness for my sin has caused me to be in awe of His mercy and grace. This verse also tells me God is working. He hasn’t given up, but His timing is different than mine. In fact, the good may not even come until I get to heaven.

Questions to consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Am I willing to love God even when He allows difficulties in my life?

Do I believe God is good – all the time?

Do I understand that sin is evil and that it causes destruction?

Do I understand that suffering produces maturity? That I am not exempt from suffering?

What am I struggling with right now? Have I shared this hurt with others? Have I allowed God to hear my heart, or am I pushing Him farther away?

Who do I know that is struggling with a hurt right now? How can I love them through the pain? Am I praying for this person? Do they know I care?

This month's memory verse: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Col 3:23-24 TNIV)*

Additional verses: *Additional verses: James 1:13-17, Genesis 3, Philippians 1:29-30, James 1:2-4, 12, Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20*

Reminders:

9.18 – 3rd:culture Night! *1MOSAIC's "FREE 4 ALL!!!"* God has blessed so many of us with so much. So here is an opportunity to give back to our community. We will be hosting a 'Free 4 All' yard sale in the parking lot of the 5/6 building from 6-8pm...bring your stuff...cost for everyone = FREE!

9.25 – The Gathering at the 5/6 BUILDING at 6pm! *Passionate Purpose III.* We wrap up our three part series talking about living out a Jesus filled passion & purpose in the 'big' things! How do we incorporate more of Jesus into our roles as students, spouses, parents, co-workers & more!?