

Thursday Nights

Starting a 3rd service at 6:30 beginning on April 16th. Purpose is to develop leaders, reach a new group of people who are unlikely or unable to attend a Sunday morning gathering.

Luke Series Slide

Yusai Hosokawa was a tea master from 16th century Japanese tea culture.

One day, he was given the distinct honor of preparing tea for the Warlord Hideyoshi. Everything was going great, but as the tea was delivered to Hideyoshi- his young servant dropped Hideyoshi's favorite tea cup and it broke into 5 pieces.

As you might imagine...warlords can be quite reactionary to the breaking of their favorite dishes. Sure enough, Hideyoshi raised his hand to punish his servant- but before he could strike a blow- Tea Master stepped in and sang a song in which the message was- "I'm the one who should be blamed for his mistake".

Hosokawa then gathered the 5 pieces and arranged for the tea cup to be restored using a Japanese lacquer technique that essentially glued the cup back together. But instead of merely leaving the cracks in the cup with just the translucent lacquer covering it...Hosokawa had the cracks filled in with gold.

When his restored tea cup was presented to Warlord Hideyoshi- he was deeply moved not only by the cup- but the act of restorative compassion performed by Hosokawa- because he had never seen such beauty come through brokenness.

This became part of legend behind the Japanese art known as Kintsugi.

Kin- meaning "Gold"

Tsugi- "Reconnection"- also "Next"- as in "connection to the NEXT generation" or "Connection to rebirth"

pic of pottery

There is a Greek word in the NT that means "To stand up again". That word is Anastasis. Its the word that the the Apostle Paul uses to describe Resurrection. And by it, he doesn't just mean standing up like you were before. He means- that in the Resurrection of Jesus- something new happens. Like Kintsugi- something more beautiful comes from a life that was once broken...once dead...and is now alive again. Standing up. Reborn.

**Title Slide “Kintsugi Anastasis: How the Power of the Kingdom of God Restores”-
Luke 13:10-21**

Finding the Good Life

There are 2 things we’ve been talking about that the Bible presents as “the Good life”

Flourishing... Receiving something from God- that produces something in you that then becomes life giving to others.

Wholeness... A single-mindedness- an overarching, transcendent META mission that the entirety of your self is committed to.

Jesus includes both of these when he is asked “What is the greatest command?”

Love the Lord with ALL YOUR HEART SOUL MIND AND STRENGTH- thats the WHOLENESS- the single mindedness.

,...and love your neighbor as yourself- Thats the **flourishing**- Something good is produced in you that overflows to others.

Today- I want you to see how the power of Jesus death and resurrection works in your life and through your life out into the world.

Luke 13:10-21

10 As he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, 11 a woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for over eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called out to her, “Woman, you are free of your disability.” 13 Then he laid his hands on her, and instantly she was restored and began to glorify God.

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded by telling the crowd, “There are six days when work should be done; therefore come on those days and be healed and not on the Sabbath day.”

15 But the Lord answered him and said, “Hypocrites! Doesn’t each one of you untie his ox or donkey from the feeding trough on the Sabbath and lead it to water? 16 Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years — shouldn’t she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day? ”

17 When he had said these things, all his adversaries were humiliated, but the whole crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things he was doing.

18 He said, therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? 19 It’s like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the sky nested in its branches.”

20 Again he said, “What can I compare the kingdom of God to? 21 It’s like leaven that a woman took and mixed into fifty pounds of flour until all of it was leavened.”

1) Jesus gives the Power of New Life.

Jesus references the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is when and where God has complete rule. And like with any Kingdom or Country- there is a culture that goes along with it. A way of being.

So when JC talks about what the Kingdom of God is like- he often describes what kind of people it produces. and what those people produce.

in other words- If Jesus becomes the king of your life- If he is given complete control- what will you be like and what will the world that is affected by you be like?

v 18-19

So lets start with this tree.

What Jesus is getting at when he describes this tree is the power of New Life.

The Bible says when you receive eternal life (which is as much a QUALITY of life as it is a QUANTITY of Life. When you’re born again as Jesus describes it to Nicodemus in John 3 when he says “YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN” -you are pushed into a higher level of life.

(Vegetable vs Human vs. New Humanity)

Its the difference in a teapot before KINTSUGI and AFTER KINTSUGI.

Its the difference in the Woman’s life before she meets Jesus- where she is focused on her brokenness- and AFTER ANASTASIS- Jesus calling her to STAND UP in new kind of life. where her life is OVERFLOW of praising God.

Let me give you 3 ways- when you are born again into new life with Jesus...that resurrection power starts small- but eventually produces FLOURISHING in your life.

This is the gold in the cracks

Resurrection Power produces Hope.

Romans 8:24-25

No more fear of death...no more fear of the futility or meaninglessness of life. Because Jesus died for our sin- we aren't condemned anymore for our sin. Instead we are forgiven by God and so even on our worst days we don't look to our works to save us- we know because Christ died and resurrected that we will resurrect with him. So our sin doesn't define us...and fear of death doesn't control us. No matter what happens- Christ will raise me up with him.

This creates an incredible toughness and fearlessness. This means on my worst days I know I still have God's loving grace.

Resurrection Perspective produces a New Ethic.

Colossians 3:1-17

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, 7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. 8 But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. 11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. 14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your

hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Resurrection Motivation produces Perseverance.

Philippians 3:10-14

My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, 11 assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

12 Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

We finish God's calling...even when its hard.

Hope, Good works, and Perseverance.

That's the tree that feeds others.

2) Jesus gives the Hope of Gradual Growth.

v18-21

Slow & Small- requires patience and perseverance
A small seed into a huge tree.

A tiny bit of yeast growing in 50 lbs of flour until the whole dough rises.

Jesus emphasis here is God's work can appear at first slow, small, and insignificant... but its end is...

Flourishing- Tree

Wholeness- Leaven (Resurrection growth effects every part of your life)

Think of the woman that Jesus restores. There is an emphasis in that story on the 18 year wait for restoration for the woman. It seems sudden- right. There was a

breakthrough for her- it even says when Jesus places his hands on her- that she INSTANTLY was restored.

But there was 18 years of prayer. 18 years of hoping. 18 years of struggle. Before the sudden KINTSUGI ANASTASIS. The standing up and pouring out praise and thanksgiving for the life Jesus changed.

Music all depend on waiting...like the song Hosokawa sang to the Warlord.

There is no music without pauses.- You have to stop and start notes. You look at a piece of music and there will be rests. There are some instruments- like a giant symbol...that almost the whole piece if your playing that percussion is rest...until one moment- that feels all of a sudden- but actually the percussionist has been closely watching the music...rest...rest...rest...rest...BAM HIT IT! And in that moment- that cymbal crash can be the crescendo of the entire piece.

Imagine the servant of Hideyoshi waiting to be punished...and wishing that the song would HURRY UP...can you just speak it...just tackle him...but HOSOKAWA continued in the unhurried pace of his song. Imagine the breaths between lines...Will this song be enough to save me?

Back to 2)

When Jesus describes what his Kingdom is like- he emphasizes that it starts small...a prayer...an act of faith...showing up one more time to the temple... But it ends in GREAT POWER.

FLOURISHING- OVERFLOW- THE OVERTAKING OF AN ENTIRE LIFE.

We have the power of inevitable, gradual, secret but relentless growth

Yeast comes into the dough...and doesn't replace the dough, but transforms it through gradual growth.

The yeast takes the dough with it- you are still you

Ideas become more than concepts they thrill you

You aren't just a creature of your instincts

Why are you bitter? Because the mercy of God is not as real as what people have done to you. What Jesus has done *for* you isn't as real as what people have done *to* you, and that's why you're bitter. Your bitterness leaves to the degree that your faith and awareness of what Jesus has done and is doing for you grows.

Do you know what happens? You're not bitter anymore the more you grow in Christ. You're not depressed (not as much) gradually, bit by bit. The power of the seed. You become more of a human being, more of an individual. You're not controlled by your circumstances. You're not controlled by what people say. You're not controlled. You're not an animal anymore. You're not a vegetable. You're not just stimulus response. You're responding to who God is, and you're more human than you've ever been. You're growing in this life. It's rising, and it's taking you with it. It's making you into something great.

Also, the more you see the great things God has done for you, the more your heart gets so huge and gets so soft. Listen, when you realize what the gospel teaches, that because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, God accepts you, he delights in you, and he loves you no matter how weak you are. If you believe in him, no matter how weak you are, he delights in you and he loves you as much as the most glorious saint in heaven today. It means his love and his honor for you unlike your love and loyalty to him...it doesn't wane...it doesn't go up and down in varying degrees reactively responding to your slowness to believe.

The point is, that this is a hidden gradual power. On the other hand, those of you who are not seeing any changes at all, are you spending time in the Word? Are you spending time before God? Are you using the gospel to get near him in prayer? Are you spending time with the people of God? Are you spending time in worship? or are you quitting?

If you have the power to crush somebody but out of love for them, in spite of what they're doing to you, you put your power underneath them to serve them instead, it takes tremendous power. There's no greater power than to refrain from the use of power.

He got you strength by becoming weak for you, and you can only get his strength by acknowledging your weakness to him

John 20:21-29

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you." 22 After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord! ” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in his hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don’t be faithless, but believe.”

28 Thomas responded to him, “My Lord and my God! ”

29 Jesus said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

After Jesus resurrects- you can still see his scars. And he is more beautiful than he ever was to them when they walked with him for 3 years.

Is he beautiful to you?

**TREVOR WILL CUE
KINTSUGI PIC**