



Longing for the New Jerusalem

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It's been one of those weeks where I've been painfully aware of the brokenness of our world. I have friends that are walking through the valley of the shadow of death right now. It's a path they'd rather not walk, but they walk the path with faith. There are other friends navigating personal tragedies that are hard for me to wrap my mind around. There are friends coping with the aftermath of the sins of others that will have long term consequences and ramifications. There's a family where one spouse chose to walk away from their partner and children. I know that there are other situations that I am unaware of right now, but where brothers and sisters are facing very difficult circumstances that are beyond their control, situations that offer little reason for hope. All of this just in my own circle of influence.

We live in a broken world. We know that. I know that, but weeks like this make it almost overwhelming.

Jesus tells us in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." We have an enemy who comes to steal, kill and destroy. Ever since Satan and his lies entered into the human drama, he's been stealing, killing and destroying. We see the effects of his work often. We know it's not the way it was meant to be. We know that he's distorted and corrupted the beautiful creation that God spoke into existence.

This past week I've been clinging to the words of John found in Revelation 21:1-4:

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

I'm longing for the new Jerusalem today. I'm longing for that day when Jesus will make all things new. I'm longing for that day when the old order of death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more. I'm trusting that Jesus will keep his promise. I'm staking my life on that promise.

I don't know what you're walking through this week. I don't know what your friends or family are having to face that's painful. In the midst of whatever trial you may be navigating right now, know that God has not abandoned you or forsaken you and that one day, Jesus will make all things new. All wrongs will be made right. This world will be restored and we will live as His people, as He meant life to be

experienced before the enemy brought theft, death and destruction.

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Christ's Peace,

Lance

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