



Living in limbo land #1
Living with the new normal
Matthew 11:1-15

What do you do when there's nothing you can do? Three lies:

1. I'll never be _____ again.
2. Nothing _____ can come from this.
3. There's really not even any _____ in continuing.

God is not _____, God is not _____,
and God is not _____.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." John 3:16 NIV

Two case studies

Case Study 1. _____.

"I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist." Matthew 11:11 NIV

"Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea." Matthew 4:12-13 ESV

"When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" Matthew 11:2-3 NIV

"Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.'" Matthew 11:4-5 NIV

"Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." Matthew 11:6 NIV

Case Study 2. _____.

"Lord the one you love is sick." John 11:3 NIV

"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days." John 11:5-6 NIV

Our _____, our _____, and our
sense of _____.

What do you do when there's nothing you can do? Three truths:

1. I _____ be happy.
2. Something good _____ come from this.
3. There is a _____ to this pain.



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

Each week we will produce the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions, as we would do normally. But as these aren't normal times, we encourage you to use the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions in a different way. Here are some suggestions:

- Immediately after the online experience has ended, grab a cuppa and then sit and discuss the questions with your husband/wife/family. If you are on your own, arrange to ring another person and chat through the questions over the phone or Skype etc.
- If you are able, meet virtually as a small group through the various free online conference resources such as Microsoft teams, Skype, Zoom etc.
- Personally, take some time through the week to quietly reflect and go through the questions on your own and apply the message to your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about a season of life—childhood, teen years, college, early adulthood—that you look back on fondly. What did you enjoy about that season?
2. Have you ever seen someone demonstrate great faith in God despite difficult circumstances? If so, how did that person's faith influence your own?
3. When have you faced a difficult event or season in life that caused you to feel you'd never be happy again or that no good could come from what you were experiencing? What happened?

4. Take another look at the two case studies and in each one answer the following:

- What struck you about how Jesus responded?
- How you would have felt if you were in the shoes of each of the case studies?
- What is the main purpose that Jesus is teaching us in each of these case studies?

5. During the message, Phill asserted that God loves you regardless of whether it feels like he loves you. How would your life be different if you lived as though you fully believed that truth?

6. Think about a time when you felt God was absent from your life, apathetic about what you were going through, or angry with you. How did it influence your relationship with him? What did you do?

7. If you're currently in the middle of difficult circumstances or when you are in the future, what are some practical things you can do to remind yourself that God hasn't abandoned you?

8. What role can another Christian play in shoring up your faith when God is silent? What role could you play in shoring up another Christians faith when they go through a tough time?