



Static – Method
Sermon Discussion Questions – Oct 16

Scripture Passages:

1 Thessalonians 1:5

...our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction...

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. 2 We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition.

Acts 16:16-18

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:22-24

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-8

We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as

a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? 20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

Warm Up:

1. When the leaves began to change colors, it sparks me to think about the ways I have seen change in my own life this past year. How have you seen yourself grow and change this past year?
2. There are also a lot of fun things associated with the fall season, such as pumpkin patches, football games, bonfires, and more. What things have you been enjoying from this fall season?

Discussion:

1. Mark Sayers explains another contributing factor to this season of static is, "The problems of the era are intensifying at the precise moment that the era is passing." In these passing of eras there are grey areas that are confusion and contradictory.
How have you experienced this confusion and contradiction with two different eras?
2. Pastor Tom explains how the season of static is more than just a culturally defining descriptor, it is defining our home, our key relationships, our families and friends. We are all living in a static season, a season of waiting or a season of leaving something and preparing to embrace something else.
How have you felt this season of static? What might you be waiting or preparing to leave, to embrace something else?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5. Paul in this passage explains the power that the gospel has in our lives. "The gospel is the first unshakable reality we can cling to in static times, it is the motivation to keep going in seasons of static."- Pastor Tom.
How might the gospel shape or speak into our static season?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:6-8. Paul gives the method of which the gospel speaks to our static season which is love. Pastor Tom expands this to say, "the gospel is fueled by love."
In what ways do you experience the love of the gospel in your own life? How might we share the love of the gospel with others who feel the weight of a static season?

5. Richard Foster says, “The Father’s heart is open wide— you too are welcome to come higher up and deeper in. If the key is prayer, the door is Jesus Christ. How good of God to provide us a way into his heart. He knows that we are stiff-necked and hard-hearted, so he has provided a means of entrance. Jesus, the Christ, lived a perfect life, died in our place, and rose victorious over all the dark powers so that we might live through him. This is wonderfully good news. No longer do we have to stand outside, barred from nearness to God by our rebellion. We may now enter through the door of God’s grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.”
What are your initial reactions to this quote? How might these truths about the gospel help shape the way you live and operate in a static season?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20. Paul is declaring this over the people of Thessalonica. What do you think Paul means when he says you are our glory and our joy? How might we interact with others if this was our lens towards them?
7. Pastor Tom shared this Larry Crabb prayer, “Jesus, take what is of you in me, that this person needs, and give it to them. And give to me, what is you in them.”
Can you think of some times when you have experienced Jesus through someone else or offered Jesus to someone else? If so, what was that like? How might praying this prayer impact the way we relate to one another?

Next Steps:

Spend some time reflecting on the questions and pray that God might lead you in whatever next steps he has for you.

1. Note what things have been causing this static season in your life.
2. Now bring forth the gospel (the good news of what God has done through the person and work of Jesus Christ, especially what he accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection), and use it as your new lens at which you look at the world around you.
3. How has the gospel shaped how you view these things?
4. What might God be calling you to do with this new lens?
5. Who might God want you to share the power of the gospel with, in our static world?