

THE BIG IDEA: God still moves stones.

The Take-Off

[ILL - not being picked up for my orthodontist appointment]

None of us like to be forgotten or to feel invisible, and yet after one of the most uncertain years in recent history, a lot of people are dealing with the sting of disappointment

And that is the final filter that we'll deal with as we bring our Filters series to an end on this Easter Sunday

Let's recognize it, remove it, and see how the risen King wants to replace it

We'll be in John 11, and while you're turning there, let me define disappointment so that we all have a common understanding

Disappointment is defined in the dictionary as "sadness or displeasure caused by the nonfulfillment of one's hopes or expectations"

A simple definition could be that we're disappointed when things don't turn out like we'd hoped

[IMAGE - [disappointmentrannt](#)]

I think it's safe to say that if you're breathing, you've faced or are facing disappointment at some point recently

I expected my dad to pick me up, you expected your marriage to last, we expected the pandemic to be over

Thankfully, the Bible speaks to this filter in a story that involves the deepest type of disappointment: disappointment with God.

We're going to pick it up in verse 17, but let's make sure we've got an awareness of what's happening:

- A close friend of Jesus was sick and Jesus heard about it
- Jesus stayed where He was and that friend died
- We're picking it up where the sisters of that friend see Jesus
- You can imagine their level of disappointment

Before we study how Jesus dealt with their filter of disappointment, let's stand and pray together the prayer we've prayed each Sunday as we've come to the truth of God's word

We don't want to observe the word and not see ourselves through it

[Psalm 139:23-24 \(MSG\)](#)

1. God allows disappointment (vv. 17-32)

- a. A wise man once said that if kids were going to grow up and thrive, they needed to learn how to deal with 2 things: no and disappointment He was right.
- b. As a good Father, God understands our need to feel and deal with disappointment
- c. It's hard to hear, but this story clearly shows that **God allows disappointment**
- d. He allows it, but doesn't want it to become our permanent filter because nothing can make us bitter faster than disappointment, and when that is our filter, we run the risk of seeing the world as one big unfulfilled expectation
- e. What I love about our story in John is that the Bible doesn't blow it off, but instead addresses the very real experience of disappointment
- f. We find 3 things that can disappoint us, and all 3 are about God:
 - v. 17 / the delay of God
 - v. 18 / the distance of God
 - v. 21 / the decisions of God (lit "if you had been here, and you weren't, my brother would not have died, and he did")
- g. If you're here today and you've been disappointed, you're in really good company because we all feel disappointment: even God.

2. God understands disappointment (vv. 33-36)

- a. Even more powerful than the fact that the Bible addresses it how Jesus responds to it
 - v. 33 / Jesus saw the weeping ("to mourn, lament") - this was ugly crying!
 - v. 33 / He was "deeply moved" - literally means "to snort with anger" - and "troubled" ("stirred up")
 - v. 35 / He responded to their disappointment - He wept, too
- b. **God understands our disappointment**, but it's even better than that!

- c. He wasn't just moved, but He moved - He was moved to action!
- d. God doesn't just feel your pain, He does something about it.

3. God removes disappointment (vv. 37-44)

- a. **God removes disappointment** and replaces it with hope.
- b. Disappointment causes us to live closed lives because we expect to lose again
- c. Hope causes us to live open lives because we expect to receive again
- d. With 3 words Jesus looked the filter of disappointment in the face and challenged those present to replace it with hope: MOVE THE STONE.
- e. Let me ask you - what stone of disappointment is keeping you in the grave?
- f. What stink are you afraid to expose to the resurrection power of Jesus?
- g. Too often we are like Marth - **we see the resurrection as a future possibility instead of a present reality**
- h. Jesus said I AM the resurrection, not I WILL BE the resurrection
- i. He brings life and hope to our current disappointments
- j. Why?
 - Romans 6:4 / so that we can live a new life NOW
 - Romans 8:1 / so we can be free from condemnation NOW
 - John 10:10 / so we can have life NOW

The Landing

The filter of disappointment will keep us in the grave, but the filter of hope sets the stage for resurrection. Jesus said to move the stone, and today, I'm challenging you to take the risk, trust, and move your stone. He still moves stones, and this morning He is inviting you to break agreement with disappointment by opening your soul and allowing God to flood your grave of disappointment with the resurrection power of Jesus!

(Explain how communion and the stones will work)

[**VIDEO - Amelia's story**]

[**Play "New Wine" by Hillsong after the video and for communion**]

Let's pray.