

The 4 Seasons Of Faith

Following Christ Through The Seasons Of Life

Sermon Overview

Meditating On The
“Winter” Of Jesus’ Life

Considering How To
Follow In Jesus’ Footsteps

The 4 Seasons Of Faith

Defining “Winter”

A “Winter” is one of those devastating times in life when things come to an end, and we grieve their passing.

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Jesus Christ’s “Winter”

Jesus Is Betrayed & Abandoned

Luke 22:47-54 – ...A crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”...Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

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Jesus Christ’s “Winter”

Jesus’ Dignity Is Taken

Luke 22:63-64 – The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” And they said many other insulting things to him.

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Jesus Christ’s “Winter”

Jesus’ Freedom Is Taken

Luke 23:1-25 – Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate...Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”...So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection...and surrendered Jesus to their will.

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Jesus Christ's "Winter"

Jesus' Life Is Taken

Luke 23:26-49 – When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"... Those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching.



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Did Jesus Handle The "Winter"?

He Accepted God's Will In Every Season
Facing All The Lies...He Let God Be The Judge
His Life Was Taken...Yet He Gave It Willingly For Us
Facing True Evil...He Overcame It With Good
Even Facing Death...He Always Had Hope



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Accept God's Will In Every Season

"So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head...His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "...Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said."

(Job 2:7-10)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Facing Lies...Let God Be The Judge

If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps...When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

(Matthew 6:27-34)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Your Life...Be Willing To Sacrifice It For Others

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

(John 15:12-14)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Overcome Evil With Good

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Romans 12:19-21)



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Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Never Despair...Always Have Hope

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

(Isaiah 43:18)



Following In Jesus' Steps

How Will You Handle The "Winter"?

Accept God's Will In Every Season
Facing Lies...Let God Be The Judge
Your Life...Be Willing To Sacrifice It For Others
Overcome Evil With Good
Never Despair...Always Have Hope!



"Winter" Conclusions

What "Winters" Are You In Today?

- Your Relationships?...Your Marriage?
- Your Finances?...Your Career?
- Your Health?...Your Activities?
- Your Possessions?...Your Dreams?
- Your Peace?...Your Energy?
- Your Trust?...Your Forgiveness?
- Your Faith?...Your Godliness?



"Winter" Conclusions

God's Purpose & Our Responsibility

God brings former things to an end, in order to bring new things to life. We must allow things to pass away, in order to see new things take place.

Everything That Begins...Eventually Will End
God Refines Us In Order To Renew Us
Grieve – Persevere – Hope!



For Reflection

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me... Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Psalm 23:1-6

