

Getting Started

1. What does it feel like when you're in a desolate place? What is the most desolate you have felt?
2. When you know a friend or family member is struggling how do you typically respond?
3. Does being in a desolate place help you draw closer to God? Why or why not?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1:

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,¹ but belong—body and soul, in life and in death²—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.³

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,⁴ and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.⁵ He also watches over me in such a way⁶ that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;⁷ in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.⁸

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.¹⁰

¹ 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ² Rom. 14:7-9 ³ 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14 ⁴ 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2 ⁵ John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11 ⁶ John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5 ⁷ Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18 ⁸ Rom. 8:28 ⁹ Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14 ¹⁰ Rom. 8:1-17

The Heidelberg Catechism starts off with this question. Why?

6. Read Psalm 23. Looking at Mark 6:39, is there a connection there?
7. The people following Jesus are described as like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34). Read Jer. 50:6 and Ezekiel 34:1-10. Why are they described this way?
8. How does this miracle in Mark 6 tie in with Exodus 16:1-36?

Application

9. We have all been in desolate places and we probably know someone right now who is in a desolate place. Be the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives. Spend time with them, pray for them, and ask if there is anything else you can do.

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · November 5, 2017

“Desolate Places”

“And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

Mark 6:35, 36

- A desolate place moment is when we feel _____, _____, or are at a loss with how to move _____.
- When we are trying to support people who are in a desolate place we often feel _____ or _____.
- Be the _____ of _____ to people who are in desolate places.

Topics: Desolate place, uncertain, caring