

# KESSID SERMON NOTES



## **Sermon**

*Palm Sunday: King of My Heart*

## **Date**

3-30-18

## **Speaker**

*Pastor Danny Clinton*

*(Vs) Mark 15:16-32*

### **All followers of Christ are at this point living shattered lives...**

- Everything they had put their hope in is hanging nearly dead on that Cross. They are a people lost and without hope...
- The uncomfortable truth is, any number of things could happen to us today, quickly bringing us to this place these people were living.
- As we know... No one is free from tragedy or pain. There are no guarantees of an easy life. For any of us. Ever! But...

### **Question: What if my inmost longings are never met and my nightmares come true?**

- What if any number of my deepest fears are realized in full color reality?
- What if my child dies? What if I get cancer? What if my spouse leaves me?

### **People in the Bible were uneasy about these "what if" questions, as well.**

- When told to lead the Israelites, Moses asked God, "What if they don't believe me?"
- Abraham's servant asked about Isaac's future wife, "What if the young woman refuses to come with me?"
- Joseph's brothers asked, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us?"
- All of them wondered what would happen if circumstances went awry...just like we do. Throughout the Old Testament, God had prepared His children for these difficult times.
- By this time stories like the writings of Habakkuk had been taught and memorized for generations. Habakkuk lived in times that were hard on faith...He saw the righteous suffering and the wicked prospering.

### **He asked God the two questions we often ask:**

- "Why?" and "How Long?"
- Why are these things happening? How long will it be before they are rectified?
- And yet...God's hand would not move. His face would not be seen...

- He could not explain it... For a time, evil would win over righteousness and bad things would happen to good people.
- Habakkuk realized that though he did not understand God's ways or timing, he could not doubt God's wisdom, love, or reliability.
- Although never ceasing with God to save his people, he closes his book with this exquisite "even if" verse...

*(Vs) Hab. 3:17-19 – "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the deer's; He makes me tread on my high places."*

**Habakkuk affirmed that "Even If everything he relied on failed, if everything that gave stability to his life crumbled, still he'd trust the Lord."**

- In this way the Lord reminds His people that He has something far better than a reassurance that our dreaded "what if's" won't happen.
- God says we have the assurance that, "Even if the worst happens, He will be there in the midst of it all."

**Perhaps the greatest example of this lies within the Book of Daniel.**

- *(Vs) Daniel 3:16-18* - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- They were satisfied knowing that "even if" the worst happened, God would take care of them.

**Replacing "what if" with "even if" is one of the most liberating exchanges we can ever make.**

- We trade our irrational fears of an uncertain future for the loving assurance of an unchanging God...

*(Vs) James 1:17 – "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

**"This kind of Faith believes that even when we cannot trace the hand of God, we must trust the heart of God."**

**He may not get us out of the troubles, but He promises to get us through. Good Friday is a clear example of this.**

**"Good Friday is, quite simply, the clearest picture of who God is for you, Love Himself" – CS Lewis**

- A Love proclaiming, "Even when the storm is raging at its greatest; even If the darkest night of suffering and death come upon you, I the Son of Man, am there with you."