

Genesis 23:1-24:14

Pastor Jim Thomas

July 4, 2021



SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 23-24:14

Strangers and Sojourners

“Men can always be blind to a thing so long as it is big enough.”

- G.K. Chesterton

Genesis 23-24:14

Strangers and Sojourners

1. The universal frailty of human life.
2. The resident alien status of believers in this world.
3. The significant symbol of a tomb.

“We will regularly experience more than we can deal with, which is why we need God to be our refuge, our shelter, our dwelling place. Lament teaches us to uncork our hearts and pour them out to God in faith...Lamenting is relearning our humanity. Lamenting is admitting that we can't handle it, knowing we need God's power, mercy, and grace. Lamenting is how we grieve as those who have hope.”

- J.A. Medders

“God has been attentive to my mourning. He has been ever close, close enough to catch my tears in a bottle as they fall from my eyes. I wonder if perhaps the bottle of my tears might sit on the shelf next to the tears Jesus wept.”

- Kim Thomas, *Finding Your Way Through Grief*

“The core challenge to the Western Church can be expressed in three words: ‘integrity,’ ‘credibility’ and ‘civility,’ though the greatest of these is integrity. In relation to Jesus Christ our Lord, we must regain the integrity of our faith; in relation to educated outsiders, we must regain the credibility of our faith; and in relation to people of other faiths, we must regain the civility of our faith. This is the sum of our challenge to be utterly faithful to our Lord while at the same time utterly and properly engaged in life in this astonishing modern world.”

- Os Guinness, *The Last Christian on Earth: Uncover the Enemy’s Plot to Undermine the Church*

“Jesus is the resurrection of believers who die, and the life of believers who live. His promise to the former is ‘you will live,’ meaning not just that you will survive, but that you will be resurrected. His promise to the latter is ‘you will never die,’ meaning not that you will escape death, but that death will prove to be a trivial episode, a transition to fullness of life.”

- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

- Genesis ends with a full tomb.
- The Gospels end with an empty tomb.
- The Bible ends with every tomb emptied.

1 Peter 1:1-9