

Good News for Hard Heads pt 5: The Shadow

Imagine:

-all of us live of a large open flat prairie ,,, that is the only world we know

-everyone has fashioned simple one room mud huts

-the mudhut is all we know of architecture

-Mysteriously every day at sunset a HUGE SHADOW casts across the prairie

-**shadow of a GIANT BUILDING.** (its a mystery because the is no building)

-its just a shadow but you can see it must be 100 feet tall or more

-the building that would cast this shadow would encompass every hut on the the prairie with plenty of room left over

-from the shadow you can somewhat see hints of how grand it is

-balconies. -parapets. -towers. -architectural wonders

-of course we dont know the words for any of these words,,, but we can see hints of these things

-because we come from a mud hut world we cannot fathom what all of this would actually be like to look at ,,,, and we definitely cannot fathom what It would be like to be inside of

-sometimes people stare at the shadow and talk about “what if we could build things like this”

-but for many that kind of talk feels like “what if I could get my unicorn to fly me to the moon, would he eat all the cheese, or would the fairy godmothers, and leprechauns stop him”

BUT

-But there are some who wait all day, every day for evening to come.

-Something in the Shadow CALLS TO THEM.

-The Shadow both Saddens and Inspires them.

-the shadow whispers to them, that they are destined for something more

-2 Corinthians 5: 1-7. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who

has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight

The Shadow of what should be causes our hearts to ache for what is.

-Paul is helping the Corinthian believers identify a weird feeling they were familiar with, but could not articulate.

-An Inner Groaning, Sigh, or Ache:

-sometimes life causes our hearts to GROAN or SIGH!

-Not a Sigh of Relief.....

—*make groaning sound.....*

-why does cancer or Alzheimers even exist? UGGGGHHHHHH

-who thought up Heroin, and why,,,, UGGGGHHHH

-why do societies always end up running these same destructive cycle . Uggghh

-how do we get to where it is normal to exploit, people ugggghh

-how did so many families get to where they are now ,, ,UGGGHHH

-This is not a judgmental or dismissive Sigh, this is a heart broken Ache FOR BROKEN PEOPLE and situations.

-Brokenness and loss are par for this course. So why do our hearts expect more?

-why do we see Injustice and want something else, this world has always favored the strong over the vulnerable

-Death, Loss & Disease : have always stolen from us, & in the end we all fall to them.

-so why does our heart rail against them as if it knows of something better

-Paul explains:

-you live in a mud hut (tent),,, its all any of us know

-but the shadow of this GREAT BUILDING has been cast in our hearts

-we can't quite make it out,,, we cant quite understand it

-but the Shadow leaves an impression that there should be more.

-We were built for more than what our current reality accounts for.
-it's like also having GILLS, and living in a waterless world

-Sin and it's subsequent curse have dumbbed this world down so that what our hearts crave, cannot be found here and now.

-So there are moments, and days when the Shadow of what should be casts long across our heart.

-it brings a Sigh,,, a Groan,, An Ache

The Shadow also shows that we are not what we should be.

-Illustration : Dream about showing up naked in places

-These dreams are always so funny because your nakedness comes as a sudden realization.

-how did I get half way through the day without noticing this.....

- exposed,,,, humiliated,,,,, unprepared,,,,,

-Verse 3 says "when we are clothed we will not be "FOUND NAKED"

-This is a Reference to humanity's fall into sin, in The Garden of Eden

-Suddenly Adam and Eve Noticed they were naked

-the nightmare we have all had,,,, they actually experienced it

-at the worst possible time,,, God showed up to talk....

-We were created to carry both the Image of God and the Glory of God.

-But when we sinned God's glory was stripped from us

-that departure left us feeling exposed and inadequate

-sin impacted creation but it also seriously impacted us

-We all have expectations of ourselves and other people.

-general things we think people “should be”

-we want to be Honest,,, Kind,,,, Generous,,, Loyal,,,, Trustworthy

-we want to be Self controlled,,,,, Courageous ,,,,,, Selfless

-But reality shows us that we are consistently less than what we wish we were.

-There is this Shadow cast by what we know humanity should be or could be,,,,, and we often disappointed at how we compare to that standard

-Sometimes we deal with the inconsistency by channeling our disgust onto others.

-sometimes our anger and venom is really MISDIRECTED disappointment at our own ability to be what we think people should be.

-But Paul owned it. The world doesn't compare well with the shadow, it is shown to be lacking. And he said “when I turn the scrutiny inward I feel vulnerable and exposed”.

-like I have suddenly realized I am in the middle of my day without clothes

—But then there is good news. Paul says that the Sigh and Groan were given to us for a reason.

-vs. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

The Shadow shows us what is yet to come.

-This is more than just what could have been.

-God has put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit of the life that is to come.

-through God's Spirit, our heart is imprinted with the Glory of what's coming

-One reason our heart hurts in looking at what is, is because something deep within us can see the comparison to what is coming!

-something in you looks ahead to the body you were supposed to have, but also to the one you will one day be given

-something inside looks ahead to a Justice (not that should have been) but to a justice that WILL BE

-The presence of God's Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is the deposit that guarantees that the rest is coming.

-we have the expectation but not the ability to deliver on it,,,,,, YET

-So what do we do with all this ???

We live by faith, not by sight.

-vs. 6&7 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight

-Even though we are here, we live as though we were there.

-Even though it's now, we live as if it were then.

-Even though I am just "this me", I live as if I were "that me".

-Our faith enables us to take the future and drag it in chunks back to today.

-I don't feel Forgiving or Loving Today, but I know that the day is coming when that will be the essence of who I am,,, so I will live that out now.

-This scenario in my family looks like turmoil today, but a day is coming when it will be utter peace and unity,,,,, so I will try to live that reality today

-The world is not right,,,, I know there is not racial equality or harmony,,,, but rather than Living in Response to what is,,,,, I WILL LIVE IN RESPONSE TO WHAT WILL BE.

- i will treat people in line with Sacred Image of God they bear
- I will assume people love me and I will treat them as true brothers and sisters
- I will sacrifice for others,, and lay myself low when it benefits someone else

-I know I am currently weak and given to frequent failure,,, but a day is coming when Jesus permanently heals what's morally broken in me.

- so I am going to live like those things no longer have my number
- i will live like that appetite is under my control rather than the reverse....
- I will live like the Character,, Strength,, Purpose I will one day have, is mine today

-live by Faith,,,, Not by sight

-The glory of God's uninterrupted presence was stripped away by our sin, but by faith I will live like it's already been restored.

-because through Jesus it has...

-Living by faith rather than sight inherently depends on Grace.

-for yourself and grace for others.

-You will constantly fail at your attempt,, You will constantly live more like who you **were** than who you **will be**.

-that is just reality, but you have to accept grace and move on

-you have to continually reset your sights on living in the reality that is coming rather than what is

-People around you and the world around you will constantly fail to meet that new reality. They will cause your heart to Groan.

-we have to offer them the Same Grace We Receive

-while continuing to point to more beautiful world to come

Closing

-We are the ones Appointed and Privileged to see the shadow stretching across the Prairie. (see it...)

-when looking at the mud huts in comparison to shadow, the world around us disappoints,,,,,

-we sigh,,, we groan

-But the shadow shows us more than just what should be.

-The Shadow calls us forward to WHAT WILL BE.

-The Shadow invites us to Pull that Future Reality back into today.