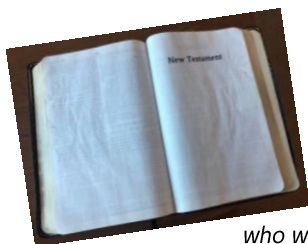


AN ADVENT ANTHEM FOR THE SPACE IN-BETWEEN

GALATIANS 4:4-5 | ERIC SIMPSON | DECEMBER 17, 2023



Eagle Church



The blank page between OT & NT = 400 years of silence

liminal space = the space between *what is* and *what will be*

Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- *chronos* = chronological time, hours, minutes, days, months, years
- *kairos* = God-appointed time, when the fullness of time had come

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- 700 years before Mary gives birth to Jesus

Hosea 11:1

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

- 720 years before Joseph takes Mary & Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod.

Abraham & Sarah waited 25 years for Isaac to be born.

Joseph waited 14 years to see the fulfillment of God's dream for his life.

Moses spent 40 years in the obscurity of Midian before the burning bush.

Mary gives birth to Jesus and waits 30 years for him to "go public."

➤ **Liminal space trains us to surrender our *chronos* to His *kairos*.**

Advent reminds us that God will deliver on his promises but it will often be more slowly than we prefer.

Why?

Titus 2:14

...to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Beyond *what* it is we are waiting for, it's about *who* we're becoming while we wait.

Too much, too soon = crush us

➤ **Liminal space right sizes SELF.**

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure...9 But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

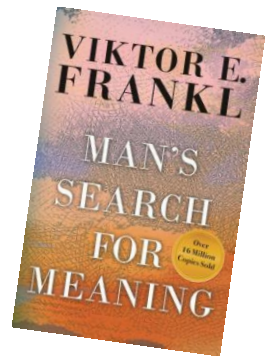
Jesus' vision = SELF is to be crucified and surrendered, not relied upon and trusted.



➤ **Liminal space develops "tragic optimism."**

Viktor Frankl was an Austrian professor of psychology and neurology at the University of Vienna. He survived three years in a German concentration camp during World War II.

"Human beings are meaning beings, we can live without food but we can't live without narrative hope, we must have meaning and purpose to keep going."



Concentration camps – why some made it thru & some didn't?

- If people lost all hope, they would die.
- If people had naïve hope, they would die. (no strength of resolve)
- The people who got through were those who possessed *tragic optimism*.
 - they had a transcendent hope anchored in a better future that they could access in the current moment

This is Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego standing before King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 3:16-18

16 "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:24-25

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." 25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Jesus didn't prevent the three teenagers from going into the furnace, he joined them in the fire and gave them the strength to persevere through it.

God gives us the power and resources to walk THRU the sufferings of this life, not bypass them.

Advent anthem:

I will not give up. I will not give in. HE will join me in the waiting.