

# Discipleship Moment

**Text: Luke 24:44-53**

Pastor Ben, in his Children's Sermon on Sunday talked about a game he played as a kid called mash. I remember playing mash, as well. The way we played it was we would have six categories of things: house, car, wife, kids, etc. (I can't remember the last two) and each category had six options. We would use a die to decide which category we were going to roll for, then we would roll the die again and whatever number it landed on was the option we would have in the future. And much like Ben, I found all of these predictions to have failed. I am not married to Lucy Liu, we do not have 18 kids, and I don't drive a gold-plated minivan with matte black, 18-inch rims (I was a creative young man).

We often try to predict our future. We day dream about our future: what kind of house we want, what kind of car we want, what kind of job we want. And sometimes these day dreams become dark or existential, we day dream about our death, how we want to die, or how long we want to live. But we know that we do not get to make these decisions. More often than not we find ourselves at the will of our circumstances. Where we live and who we marry oftentimes has more impact on where we work than any decision we make. Our genetics decide more about our lifespan and death than any health decisions we make. This reality shows us just how powerless we actually are.

Which makes God's timing so impressive. Not only did God show power over time and power over the failure of his people, he showed an incredible amount of wisdom in his timing. Over millennia he cultivated in humanity an awareness of their depravity and chose one people group out of all the nations to show just how bad humans are at deciding for ourselves what is right and wrong. God patiently and creatively led his people, was gentle with the Israelites, and created circumstances where his love, judgment, and compassion could be shown.

And then, at just the right time, the Son was sent to earth as a human. And Jesus showed, in time and place, exactly what it meant to walk in obedience to God. He was crushed by the power of sin and violence, was resurrected to show power over death, and then was brought up into heaven to sit at God's right hand, just as Daniel 7 predicted: a human person would sit at God's right hand and rule the cosmos.

One of the most incredible proofs of our faith is this long tradition of hope and prediction in the Old Testament. There is no way that anyone person could fulfill all that is said about the Messiah in the Old Testament. But Jesus' friends, despite losing everything, believed that Jesus did, in fact, fulfill all that was written in the Old Testament. There are over 1000 allusions and quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament. The authors intentionally pointed out that Jesus' work is a conclusion to the story that the Old Testament is telling. It is not two different stories, and two different gods, but one story, and one God. God used the law and the prophets and the writings to show humans their desperate need for a savior and provided the savior for us.

What a great story. Let us live in this story, worship Jesus, and follow him.

## Going Deeper

*Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once.*

1. Have you tried to predict your future? What dreams and predictions did you have?
2. How did those predictions and dreams work out? Did they turn out the way you hoped? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think we try to predict or dream about the future?
4. From the sermon on Sunday and the devotional above, what do you think are some of the most surprising predictions in the Old Testament?
5. Read Isaiah 53:13-53:12. What does this passage tell us about the Servant, the Messiah. Does Jesus fulfill these things according to the New Testament? What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
6. What are the implications of these predictions? What do they tell us about our lives as Christians? Does this change the way we believe or act? Why or why not?