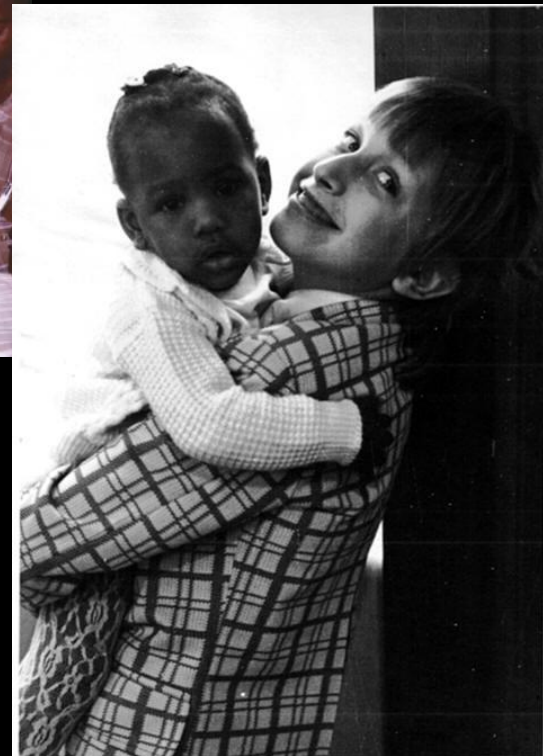
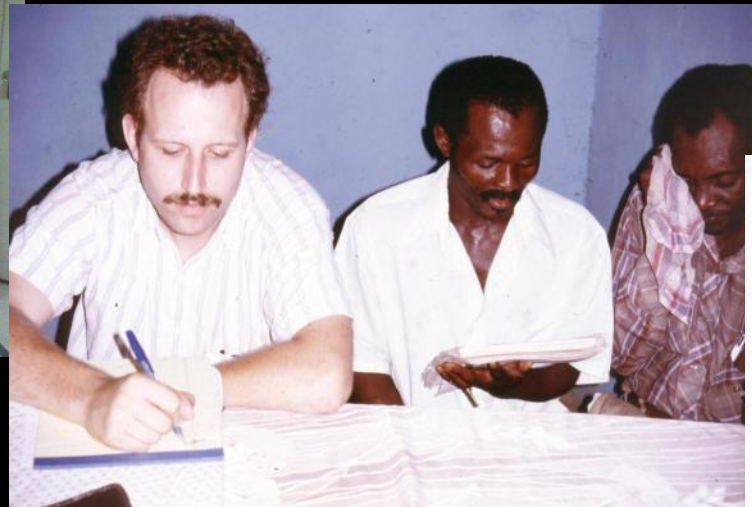




If one puts aside the existence of God and the survival after life as too doubtful...one has to make up one's mind as to the use of life. If death ends all, if I have neither to hope for good nor to fear evil, I must ask myself what am I hear for, and how in these circumstances must I conduct myself. Now the answer is plain, but so unpalatable that most will not face it. There is no meaning for life, and [thus] life has no meaning.
Somerset Maugham, The Summing Up

Appearances in the age of decay



Time does strange things to us



Elmer



All that keeps us from being appalled at this tragedy is the fact that this devastation is revealed to us in slow motion, which is its own grace

Imaginations too small

- People like to say,
 - How can there be a God with this much suffering...
- Their imaginations are too small
 - Human history is itself a continual “holocaust” a “whole burnt offering”

See the loss

- Every life will end, young or old
- Only a tidbit of art and beauty will be seen and all lost
- Beautiful cultures lost
- Relationships all lost
- Moments of ecstasy and rapture always evaporate...
- Let's not start talking about "potential"

Why doesn't God just fix it?

- Surely he could make a creation without this decay!
 - But could we tolerate a creation without the decay?
- We wouldn't be able to come
 - How long could you stand to live with even your garden-variety character flaws
 - What havoc would they create in all your relationships

Why doesn't God just fix people?

- Have you ever worked with people?
- Read the Bible
 - God makes the “sun stand still”
 - Parts the waters, brings the plagues, feeds a nation in the desert
 - What does he spend the whole narrative wrestling with?

Jesus begins with a clear announcement in terms we can understand

Spirit of the LORD is upon **me**,
for he has anointed **me**:

To **preach** good news to the poor he has sent **me**:

To **proclaim** for the captives **release**,
and to the blind **sight**

To **send forth** the oppressed in **release**;

To **proclaim** the year of the LORD's favor.

Translation by Joel Green

He rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant, sat down,
all eyes fixed on him...

"**Today is fulfilled** this scripture in your hearing"

Optimal effort

- Flat out astounding miracles
 - Dead raised, storm stilled, sick healed
- Faith lessons again and again
 - Yet his closest can't see it
- Jesus' greatest weapon is prayer

Last week

- Jesus prays some more
 - Then quizzes the disciples
 - They declare him to be Messiah
 - Then demonstrates then explains how he will wrest this world from the grip of decay, at the cost of his own life, and that addressing our souls curved in on themselves is the road of stopping to try to save our selves.

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

Again what is he praying for?

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.

What happened on the
seventh day?

What happened on the
"eighth day?"

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
Sunday

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. **And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.**

Why bright?

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

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Why wasn't Jesus just born this way?

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Old Stories of Israel

- Jesus' manifesto from Isaiah
- Jesus feeds the 5000
 - God feeding Israel in the desert
 - The Mountain Feast of Isaiah 25:6-9

Exodus 34:29-35 (NRSV)

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face;

Luke 9:28-31 (NRSV)

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Moses and Elijah

- Two men who were taken by God (didn't die)
- Two men who met God on the mountain of God (Horeb/Sinai)
- Figureheads: Law and the Prophets, Jesus' Bible

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Fulfill an “Exodus” in Jerusalem

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ἔξοδον

There is a very old plan here that Moses (law) and Elijah (prophets) are in on...

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ἔξοδον

Luke 9:32-36 (NRSV)

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

Tabernacles

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Triple Theophany (God-appearance)

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Exodus 24:9-18 (NRSV)

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. God did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank. The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

What is going on?

- God has been moving through history to set a table and bring a feast

The Feast

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

What is going on?

- God has been moving through history to set a table and bring a feast
- As we see (and will see in Luke), we are the problematic guests at the feast. We don't see it, we don't value it, "lost" is the best word to describe us.

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Why this revelation?

- The same reason we always need revelation, we are slow of heart to believe.
- The disciples will need it, for what they are about to undergo. It will shake them
- All of us, every day, need to see the Gospel afresh

How will your life change as belief in God's mission grips your heart?

- Will you be less fearful?
- Will you be more hopeful?
- Will you be more loving? Forgiving? Patient? Joyful? Courageous?

It had not come

- Jesus, Moses and Elijah had not tasted death, but the exodus had still no been fulfilled
 - No tent on the mountain could change our hearts

His exodus he was about to fulfill

- By us crushing him, we are crushed because our truth is revealed
- By his resurrection, the restoration that will come upon us, and the world is revealed
- If this sinks into our hearts, the life of the age beyond decay begins to flow out