

CRAZY ASKS #4
Kenny Luck

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36 NIV

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” Mark 8:34-36 NIV

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” John 10:17-18 NIV

LOSS AND GAIN = _____

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EZEKIEL: A PRECIOUS POSSESSION COLLIDES WITH A CRAZY ASK.

THE BACK STORY

In the ninth year, in the tenth month on the tenth day, the word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, record this date, this very date, because the king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day. Tell this rebellious people a parable and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Put on the cooking pot; put it on and pour water into it. Put into it the pieces of meat, all the choice pieces—the leg and the shoulder. Fill it with the best of these bones; take the pick of the flock. Pile wood beneath it for the bones; bring it to a boil and cook the bones in it. So heap on the wood and kindle the fire. Cook the meat well, mixing in the spices; and let the bones be charred. Then set the empty pot on the coals till it becomes hot and its copper glows so that its impurities may be melted and its deposit burned away. It has frustrated all efforts; its heavy deposit has not been removed, not even by fire.” Ezekiel 24:1-5, 10-12 NIV

ISRAEL'S _____

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ISRAEL'S _____

THE CRAZY ASK

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead. Keep your turban fastened and your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache and beard or eat the customary food of mourners.” Ezekiel 24:15-17 NIV

MESSAGE OF _____

MESSAGE OF _____

MESSAGE OF _____

THE REST OF THE STORY

So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. The next morning I did as I had been commanded. Then the people asked me, “Won't you tell us what these things have

to do with us? Why are you acting like this?" So I said to them, "The word of the LORD came to me: Say to the people of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to desecrate my sanctuary—the stronghold in which you take pride, the delight of your eyes, the object of your affection. The sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword. And you will do as I have done. You will not cover your mustache and beard or eat the customary food of mourners. You will keep your turbans on your heads and your sandals on your feet. You will not mourn or weep but will waste away because of your sins and groan among yourselves. Ezekiel will be a sign to you; you will do just as he has done. When this happens, you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.'

"And you, son of man, on the day I take away their stronghold, their joy and glory, the delight of their eyes, their heart's desire, and their sons and daughters as well— on that day a fugitive will come to tell you the news. At that time your mouth will be opened; you will speak with him and will no longer be silent. So you will be a sign to them, and they will know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 24:18-27 NIV

GOD IS SAYING _____.

GOD IS SAYING _____.

GOD IS SAYING _____.

GOD IS SAYING _____.

SO WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME RIGHT NOW?

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." Job 1:21 NIV

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15 NASB

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation."

Hebrews 5:8-9 NASB

FOR DISCUSSION:

CAN YOU THINK OF A "LOSS" WHICH CONFUSED YOU?

WHY IS IT EASY TO FORGET THAT WE EVERYTHING WE HAVE AND CHERISH IS GOD'S FIRST?

HOW IS OUR STORY LIKE EZEKIEL'S?

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW ADVERSITY TO STRIKE HIS CHILDREN?

HOW DOES GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRIST SHAPE OUR PERSPECTIVE IN THE MIDST OF GREAT LOSSES IN LIFE?

HOW DOES "WHAT GOD IS SAYING" APPLY TO YOU?

