

I. Recognizing our desire for the life to come as homesickness

- **Question:** Now, have you ever thought about your desire for the life to come as homesickness? Philip Yancey wrote, “Faith is, in the end, a kind of homesickness—for a home we have never visited but have never stopped longing for.” **Respond.**
- I think we do and don’t even realize it. If struggling to answer, then **ask:** What do you think a desire for the life to come is?
 - Fellowship (acceptance & rejection)
 - **Questions:** Why do you think it feels so good when you are accepted by a person or group of people? Or why do you think it hurts so bad when you are rejected by a person or group of people?
 - **Response:** You and I were created for perfect fellowship and acceptance. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, brokenness entered into relationships. Even though rejection happens now, our hearts still long for perfect acceptance because we were created for it. This longing for perfect fellowship and acceptance is a longing for Home because at Home perfect acceptance will be restored and rejection will be no more.
 - Here on Earth, both, satisfaction from acceptance and pain from rejection are homesickness.
 - Pain (loss & brokenness)
 - **Question:** Whether it be separation or death, why do you think it is so painful when you lose someone?
 - **Response:** You and I were created for satisfying & never-ending relationships. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, death and separation entered into relationships. Consider Cain and Abel and their broken relationship that included death by murder. Death is a reality now but life is what our heart longs for because we were created for life. This longing for life and satisfying, never-ending relationships is a longing for Home because at Home death will be no more. Satisfying, never-ending relationship will be restored.
 - Joy found in life and satisfying, never-ending relationship and pain from loss and brokenness are homesickness.
- When I think about a literal longing for home, I think of my great-grandmother (Mimi). She has a disease called dementia. Mimi’s short-term memory doesn’t function properly so it is dangerous for her to live by herself. With short term memory loss, you forget what you say and do minutes prior therefore you repeat yourself and leave things unattended. One of her hot-button topics is she is going back home. Her conversations are dominated by her getting up out of the nursing home. Mimi has a longing to go home and doesn’t like the nursing home that she lives in.
- Each of us has a longing for Home (Eternity) that awaits us on the New Earth. Here’s a cool reality, my Mimi’s mind will be restored and function even better than it ever has before on the New Earth.
- **Question:** Have you ever gone through a difficult time when your desire for Home (New Earth) grew stronger? Describe it.

II. Glimpses of what Home will be like

- Even though we will always be discontent, here, on Earth, God did not leave us without glimpses of what’s to come. He is gracious.
- At a special needs camp that we are short-term missionaries at, there is a pool that is wheelchair accessible. As I lifeguard, I watch faces beaming with joy as special needs campers and short term missionaries are laughing and having a good time. I cannot help but think this is a glimpse of the joy to come. Perfect fellowship. I look over at the empty wheelchairs and think those will be no longer needed at Home on New Earth. Restoration will bring perfect use of our bodies with no limitations.
- As I watch y’all enjoy Wednesday nights, with all the yelling and laughter and running around, I am satisfied by the glimpse of what life to come will be like.
- **Question:** What glimpses have you experienced? Have you ever experienced joy and happiness and thought I want more of this? Describe it.

extra:

The other question is: Is Heaven really what I am longing for?

Conclusion

I want us to obtain a clear picture of what our coming life will be like so that “you would thirst for it like you never have before and to prepare you, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to live a life here keeping your life there in view, understanding that much of the discontent you experience now flows out of homesickness and will only be answered when you are truly Home.”

next week, While we will seek to be true to the Bible, we will be speculating and awakening our imagination.