

Cassie Campion sermon

Cancer and dying young, sucks...

There's just nothing else you can say about it...

It sucked that just as Steve and Cassie found a home, were doing well, had rediscovered Jesus, had greater stability than for some years... were planning their wedding so they would be married in the eyes of God...

... boom

This diagnosis

Not only the diagnosis... but the prognosis...

... that basically, nothing could be done...

And surely, we want to call out to God and say – hey – if you're there – why is this a good idea...!?

This sucks...! //

...and you can tell God that... he can take it...!

So let's see if we can make some sense of this this morning...

Did you know God thinks death sucks **too**?

The Bible calls death an **enemy**!

One-time Jesus lost a mate to death... they were pretty close.

His name was **Lazarus**... and he was also friends with his two sisters **Mary** and **Martha**

In fact when Jesus turned up after Lazarus had died, Mary and Martha both had a **go** at Jesus and said – “if you’d turned up earlier... Laz would not have died – you could have done something...”

Jesus went out to the tomb where Lazarus had been placed...

And the Bible says Jesus was “deeply moved in spirit and troubled”

The words ‘deeply moved’ and ‘troubled’ are not easy to translate... because in the original language – it’s something like he snorted like a horse...

...because he was **angry**... angry at **death**... angry at the tremendous **sadness** of his friends...

...and then we read that “Jesus **wept**”

Today – here at Cassie’s funeral... you know what?

Jesus is deeply moved and troubled... he’s **angry** at **death**...

And he **weeps**

He weeps **with** us and he weeps **for** us in our deep loss and sadness.... ///

So... hang on... /

We might want to say – well Jesus is **God** isn't he? – where did death come from and why doesn't he do something about it??

The Bible makes it clear that death wasn't part of God's beautiful **perfect creation**.

When he finished making the world – he stepped back and said, 'this is **very good**'.

There wasn't any **sickness** and **death then**.

But **here's** what happened

The first human beings decided to **push God away** and do their **own thing**... God had warned that it wouldn't be good if they did that... but they reckoned they knew **better** than God and went and did their **own thing**... //

And the Bible says that really **mucked up** the **whole world**...

Because **perfection** had been destroyed – **everything** was mucked up

The world earth was **shattered** because human beings decided to push God out of their **lives**

Sickness, pain... earthquakes, cyclones... and DEATH – all started happening because human beings decided to do their **own** thing without **God**. //

Ok... if that is where death came from... why doesn't God **DO** something!!

And here's the **best** news in the face of Cassie's death...

HE **HAS** done something...

Let me put this as **simply** as I can

Death came into the world because human beings pushed God **out**

Do you know what God **did**?

He turned up here in **person**.... The person of **Jesus**....

And he took all our **rebellion** on his **shoulders**...

With all that **muck** on his shoulders... he **died**.... Died the death we deserve...

And then... with great **power** – pushed death **off** – he **rose** from the dead... and was **alive** - never to die **again**!!

So that's why he said to Mary and Martha – Lazarus' sisters... if you believe in me you will **live**, even when you **die**... **I am the resurrection and the life!** That is, because of me – through me – **you** can beat death and **live**

And then he called out to Lazarus' tomb and said – “Lazarus - come out” – and he **did!!!**

Jesus has **power** over **death**

And Jesus can **rescue** us from death! //

A little girl – 12 years old – dying – dad went to find Jesus... Jesus was late getting to the girl and she died

And Jesus took her by the hand and said, ‘little girl – get up’ and she **did**.

Jesus has **power** over **death**

And Jesus can rescue **us** from **death!** ///

Cassie knew **this.** //

Cassie and I talked about how because she trusted Jesus, death would not be the **end** but the **beginning** for her...

The beginning of a whole new **life** with **Jesus**...

Now – it still **sucks** – because Cassie is not with us – but we know that **Cassie** is with **God** and **God** is with **us**... !

Cassie is alive and well and happy – she's free of pain – she looks healthy again... and she is loving being with Jesus....

What **difference** does all this make?

Let me share with you what Steve texted me when Cassie had died...

She is now with god and I'm at peace knowing that.

And then - And I will see her again when my work hear is done. Thanks be to God.

Death **sucks**. //

It came into the world because human beings decided to do their own thing

But God loves us so much... that he took on death for us... took all our rebellion on his shoulders... so we can be forgiven.

And if we decide to the **opposite** of what **caused** death... that is – instead of pushing God **out** – we welcome him **in** – instead of doing our **own** thing – we do HIS thing – he **totally forgives** us and gives us life with him **forever...!!**

Cassie and Steve in the past few years, decided to stop pushing God out and welcome him in back in

Have **you**?

Will you?

It's the **only** way of making sense of living here

Only the hope we have in the face of **Cassie's** death is knowing that God has **beaten** death **for us...**

And if we **run** to him – and **trust** him – and **live** for him – and are **forgiven...** we can be sure of joining Cassie when we die – and being with her forever...