

Nature3 Sky

We are in our series “Nature Declares the Glory of God”

The main concept of this sermon series is to look at what the Scriptures say about nature and various creations and learn how God intended these creations to bring glory to Himself and point to Him. I believe the Scriptures teach that in creation we not only see there is a creator but we can learn about character traits of the creator and how He deals with us. *Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

Last week we learned about how the heights of mountains point to the Lord and how the barriers of the mountains remind us of how things in life create barriers for our faith when we don't trust in the Lord.

Today we are goin to deal with the Sky...

The great thing about the sky is all you have to do see it is look up...

There is an interesting account in Matthew 16 in which some religious leaders challenge Jesus and doubt He is God.

Matthew 16:1-3 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ ³ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Jesus challenged them because they studied and payed attention to the creation and did not study and pay attention to the one that created it.

These religious leaders should have known better because in Deuteronomy 4:19 when God was telling the people to avoid idolatry and pay close attention to Him, He said.... *And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.*

An amazing characteristic about the sky is that it is always changing, the sky never really looks the same from day to day, in fact the very nature of the sky is that it is always changing.

This week I paid close attention to the sky and I have to say I saw almost every kind of sky including a rainbow. The sky changes all day and night and everyday.

This is the exact opposite of God, He does not change. *Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

So today I want to draw some parallels between the changing sky and our changing lives.

So lets look at the changing character traits of the sky... and start with the...

Sunrise

First it is a reminder that very early before the sunrise when the women went to the tomb where Jesus was laid...they discovered that He rose from the grave while the sun was rising. One of the reasons why we love doing the Easter Sunrise service is because it is a

reminder of the Sunday when Jesus rose. Which brings us to the GOSPEL...

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Sunrises remind of the new life Jesus gives.

Next when witness a sunrise we are reminded that it is a new day!

Maybe the day or night before something terrible happened, there can be a sense of comfort with a new day.

Psalms 30:5b Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

The new day does not erase what happened the previous day but it reminds us that we have a new opportunity to praise God.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Sometimes we think we are only supposed to praise God on Sunday mornings, but we are supposed to praise Him all day and every day

Psalm 113:3 From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

This brings us to the...

Day Sky we start by seeing or knowing that the sun rose and now we have the day. The day sky can be perfectly blue without a cloud, the day sky can be filled with Cumulus clouds (white puffy ones) or the day sky can be filled with Stratus clouds and look very gray.

The day sky can set our mood and many times we let it set our mood...but should we? Based on studies weather does affect our moods but so does what we believe about God.

So what is going on in the sky can serve as reminders of who God is and what He has done.

For example

No matter what the weather is you can be reminded of God's blessing on everyone.

Matthew 5:45 Jesus said *“The Father makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”*

Theologians call this “Common Grace” just like everyone can see there is a creator through creation, everyone can also experience God’s grace through each days weather.

When you see a rainbow it reminds us of the promise God gave to Noah after the Flood

Genesis 9:12-15 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Next when we see the clouds it reminds us that God is faithful to His people

Psalm 57:10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

How has God been faithful to you? Make a list... family, friends, church, health, finances etc.

Maybe you feel your list is short...don't worry God is still faithful...The book of Revelation starts off by reminding us of God's faithfulness by what we as believers are waiting for.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

It may be hard to believe that this will happen but I am very sure that after these last 4 months in our country and world you want to believe that Jesus is going to come soon.

At the end of the day we have the...

Sunset

Watching a beautiful sunset is an amazing thing. It is not only seeing the sun go down it is also seeing the sky after the sun sets. I am sure you have seen sunsets, snapped a picture and and looked at the picture and

thought “*this doesn’t really capture the beauty of what I am seeing*” Most of the time its just better to sit and enjoy the beauty.

The sun setting is the close of a day...sometimes we are bummed the day is over and other times we are glad the day is over.

Sometimes there is business we need to take care of before the sun goes down.

Ephesians 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

A good habit for a believer is take care of things that you can before the day is over. Maybe you are at odds with someone, this doesn’t mean force the issue and call the person late at night to work it out, but it does mean go to the Lord and ask Him to help you deal with the emotions attached to what happened that day.

After the sunsets completely we have the...

Night Sky

David said in Psalm 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

We have all looked up at night and witnessed the moon and stars but have you ever been to place that has little to no light pollution and looked up on a clear night?

In 2004 we started to take the Youth Ministry to OBX NC and one of the things I love about being out there is going up to beach at night and looking up at the sky... there is barely any light pollution and you literally see extra stars that you can't see in an area where there is light pollution.

The prophet Jeremiah said...*Jeremiah 31:35 Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,*

Like the rest of creation the moon and the stars were purposely created by the Lord to point us to Him and their role is to do that at night.

The most famous star was the one that shone for the wise men to see when Jesus came into the world
Matthew 2:9-10 And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

They were overjoyed because the promised Savior came into the world.

Unfortunately people use the night sky or the darkness as a cover for their sin...sometimes we do that. The Apostle Paul tells us not to...

Ephesians 5:11-14 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

This morning we are going to observe communion and communion serves us as a wake up call to not continue in sin but to throw that sin that we have been trying to cover up by the darkness into the light of the cross...

because Jesus paid for that sin and we are to remember that.

Take out elements

Pray