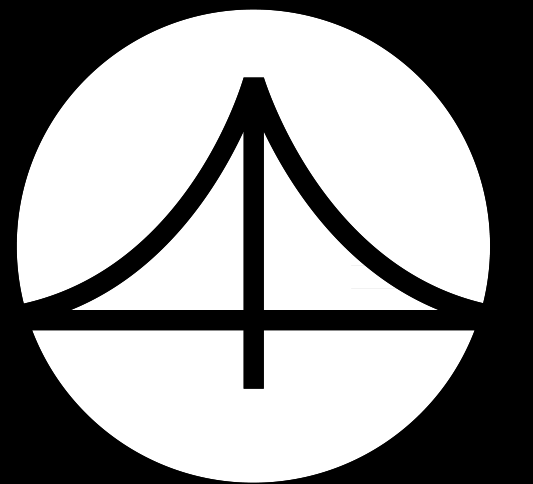


Advent 2023: After Christmas

Luke 2:22-38



Jesus comes to bring peace, but does it in unexpected ways.

- Life Goes On
- Blessings that Sting
- Recalibrating Expectations

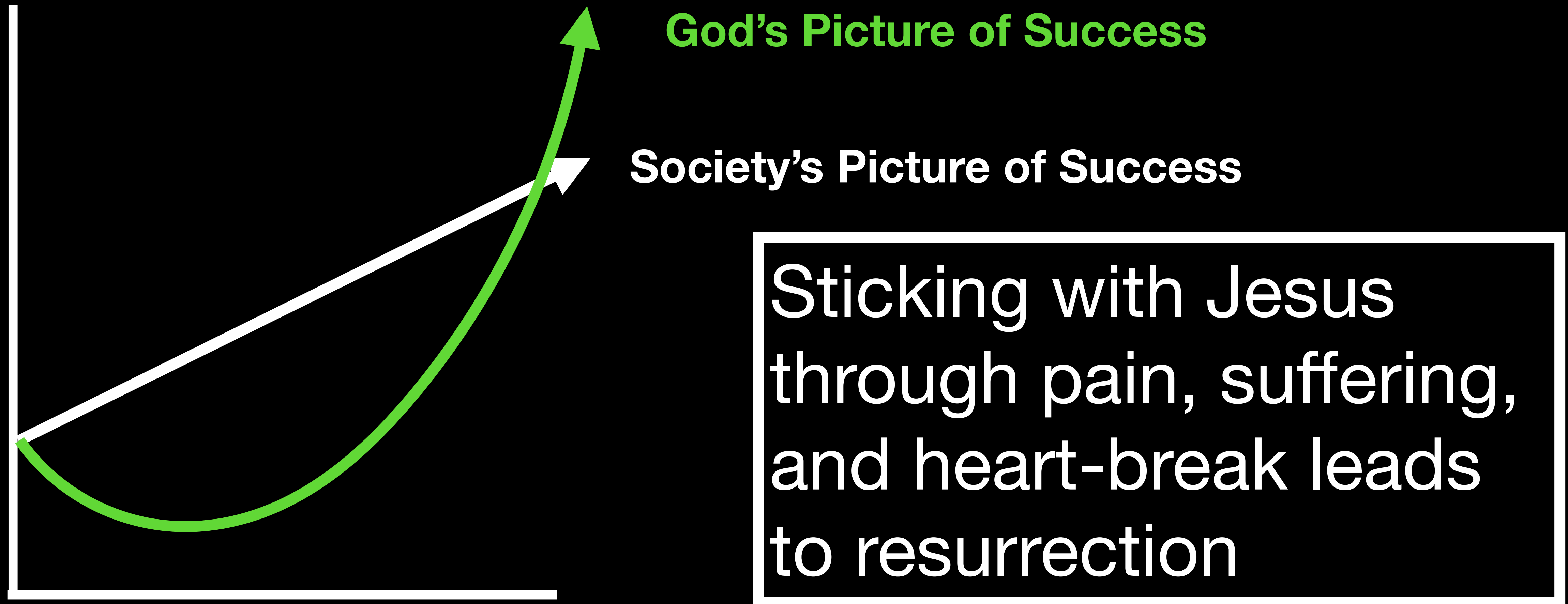
Life Goes On

- After the shepherds leave, Mary and Joseph's experience as new parents would have been pretty usual for a while
- The fact that God was their son hadn't instantly transformed their circumstances or made their problems disappear

Blessings that Sting

- Jesus is a Savior who brings peace, but He will also bring pain
- Mary, His mom, will suffer most of all
- Christmas involves pain in the process of making things better
- Progress in God's story is J-shaped

Recalibrating Expectations



Luke 2:22-38

Recalibrating Expectations

- Steps for recalibrating:
 - Embrace the J
 - Don't run away, but enter into the suffering with God
 - Embrace hope in the J
 - Keep your eyes open for God's work in your pain
 - Embrace Jesus in the J
 - Jesus meets us in our pain and gives us Himself

Luke 2:22-38