

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – Lucy

By John Van Sloten

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[PRE Worship SERVICE CLIP – 0:00 -2:04]

[READING #1 (1-6)] “Can you imagine being there?

you’re a young child living in a time of war...

(life is out of control... a bit fearful... unknowns!)

It’s grey raining day... dull, monochromatic...

(you’re a bit bored... depressed... empty...)

Just looking for more... a distraction... some playful

fun... something to get your mind off reality... **PAUSE**

...or maybe just looking for **a good hiding place!...**”

Can you imagine being there then tripping upon this!

NARNIA!... feeling your way through life... groping

through darkness... all of a sudden the wooden planks

get pulled out from underneath you... **and you**

discover that reality is different than you thought it

was... the back of the wardrobe... which you knew was

there... or should be there... is gone.”

Discover **a whole different reality exists...** a magical

land... w/mysterious forest... place filled with **meaning**

adventure... and a real sense of you **being there for a**

reason... of **your life mattering!** **PAUSE.**”

Can you imagine discovering that kind of world?....

PAUSE... Nah... couldn’t be... snap out of it... a dream.

a **supernatural world** in an **age of science?**

mysterious magical kingdom **time of empirical truth?**

that’s kid’s stuff... **myth...** **you’ve got to be pretty**

naïve to believe in that sort of thing... **PAUSE...**

[SLOWLY] but sometimes you do want to believe...

enough to drive you batty... **(7)** “I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief...” MK 9:24

“Lucy believed... at least she thought she did... until her siblings got a hold of her...” **[READING #2 (8-14)]**

And now the kids faced a choice... **to believe or not to believe...** trust a truthful Lucy, or deceptive Edmund They **were right there...** edge wardrobe door **PAUSE**

C.S. Lewis... avowed atheist... knows that place... **(15)**

“I was in fact offered what now appears a moment of wholly free choice... I became aware that I was holding something at bay, or shutting something out... I could open the door or keep it shut; I could unbuckle the armour or keep it on... I chose to open, to unbuckle, to loosen the rein.” Surprised by Joy, 179

The central message of Jesus Christ existence of another supernatural kingdom... **“Kingdom of God” (16)** **“Your kingdom come...”** he prayed... & it came, **(17) forcefully advancing’...** and he spoke of a **secret wisdom** that enables us to enter in... **(18) The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you...** and he described it as though it was right here... right now... **(19) “The kingdom of heaven is near...” PAUSE...**

He **beckoned his followers to engage it... step in!...** to a land where children kings... those who believe find meaning and life... **(20)** “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like [Lucy] will never enter it.” MK 10:15

[READING #3 (21 only)]

Something about **name** of Aslan... about his **character identity...** just so **significant...** carries such **weight** authority... has a history/future... it matters! when you hear it... impacts you!... (positively or neg)

Last week Negative response of Edmund... this week Lucy **(22)** “And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realize that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of summer.”

Do you remember that feeling?... **LONG PAUSE...**

You hear his name and you're there... **[Bed scene]**

You hear his name freedom, peace, rest...

You hear his name life makes sense... right... true!

It changes you... it transforms you... **Knowing his name helps you know your name... gives you life!...**

“He came so that they could have life... life in abundance... It was for freedom that he was about to set them free.... A new green shoot was about to burst forth/their world;... **Spring was upon them.**”

There was just something about Aslan grips you!

[READING #4 – slides 23 - 27]

Want to know what it's like to have a Lucy-like heart?... be able to get what Kingdom or Narnia is all about? just look at her here... **“Please Aslan, can anything be done to save Edmund?”**... not a vengeful bone... if anyone Ed hang by own rope... yet she begs for his life... **PAUSE... child like compassion... a young ‘quick to forgiveness’... a divinely merciful short memory... unconditional love!**

An Ancient Hebrew poet on the love of God... **(28)** “The LORD is merciful and gracious; he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does he deal with us as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our rebellious acts as far away from us as the east is from the west.” Psalm 103:8-12

God's heart for you... **Lucy showing Aslan's heart** for Edmund!... **PAUSE...** “All shall be done...” said Aslan to Lucy... no kidding!... I'd be solemn too! **[(29) knew sacrifice own life... silent lamb... overwhelmed/death]** What a strange way for love and mercy show itself...

[READING #5 – slides 30 -]

Hopelessness can be so cold... **PAUSE...** when Jesus died stories immediately followed felt equally blue **Women weeping at a cross... mourning at a tomb...** Men walk on an Emmaus road, “We had our hopes up... we thought that he was the one...” **PAUSE...**

Lucy so loved Aslan... now he was lost!... **PAUSE Why him?**... “He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone.” Is 53:9 We share Lucy's incredulity... Faced with that cold hard reality... with **senseless, selfless sacrifice... we question... PAUSE... we're confused... PAUSE... unsettled... confounded... PAUSE... We wonder... PAUSE...**

And all the while... mice keep chewing... **PAUSE...** birds begin to sing! And the son begins to rise... **A brand new day...**

[FINAL READING #6 – slides ??]

[SERVICE VIDEO CLOSER 6:53 – 8:32 begin slow fade after witch says “Impossible” STOP 8:40]

PRE-BENEDICTION - In a later book in the Narnia series, Lucy and Edmund meet Aslan again, and they are upset they have to leave Narnia. But Aslan reassures them they will meet again. He says “I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. That was the very reason you were brought into

Narnia, that by knowing me for a little, you may know me better there.”