**Walking the Corridor of Life (Theology of Pain)**

INTRODUCTION

Mark shared two stories from the same hospital maternity unit, walking down the same corridor. The first, being led into a room on the left of the corridor, where the medical professionals told him that their very premature baby had died. The second, a year later, Mark and his wife were being led down the same corridor, this time into a room on the right. There, it was later announced, they were the parents to a healthy boy. Life, Mark says, is learning to walk the corridor well, whichever room we find ourselves in.

Reading: Psalm 73:1-17

*Key points*

1. The key to walking the corridor well: to invite God into our pain. It doesn’t mean all will be easy, but it means God sits with us in our pain.
2. One thing that helps people walk the corridor well is a strong sense of love and belonging
3. Above all else know that you are not a machine, you are a work of art.
4. What makes me vulnerable is what makes me beautiful.
5. God intermingles everything because that is what He does. Nothing is wasted.

QUESTIONS

* What do you think these verses are saying?
* What do these verses say about God?
* What do these verses say about people?
* What has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you about in your life?
* Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid or an example we should follow?
* Share how you plan to apply this in your life.

Prayer

At this time in our church life, I believe God is wanting us to be praying Isaiah’s prayer for ourselves: “Here I am Lord, send me.”