

Midweek Message

“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

(Isaiah 40:30,31 ESV)

We're now several weeks into this current pandemic and most of us are probably wondering when it may be over, or if not totally over, when we can begin to get back to some normalcy of life. Well, I honestly don't know how quickly that will happen nor do I know if life will get fully back to the way it was before this crisis began or if some things may be different. Whatever the case, I'm actually hoping and praying for a new revival in this world with people from all walks of life, turning from their rebellion against God and coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, I know this is difficult for us as God's people as we too are affected by this calamity in our world since we too are part of the human race. However, I also want you to understand that God has good things in mind for us as well as He is working to free us from many of the previously unknown idols in our lives. Sadly, as believers in and followers of Jesus, we can also, by our own sinfulness, especially in the area of our personal security, trust in something other than God. You see, as I heard one theologian say in answer to the question 'What is God up to?', that God is always up to many, many things as He continues His great plan and purpose for redemption.

As I've often said, I have a lot of favorite Scriptures and the one above is certainly near the top of my list as it points us to the One on whom we should always find our peace, comfort, and strength. As human beings, whether young or old, we all face times of uncertainty when we seem to become weary of life and all we have to face as we walk life's journey. I was reading just this morning about one lady who was doing the "remain at home" thing only to have three of her appliances break all in the same day. That kind of thing can be quite frustrating to us, especially when we're still facing an even greater threat from this virus. And when you add to that how we're so isolated from each other with great uncertainty that it will end any time soon, well, that only adds to the weariness.

However, the prophet Isaiah tells us that when we "wait upon the Lord" we'll be blessed as only God can bless us. The idea of waiting is that of personal expectation that God will come to our aid. It's very much like the child who has been promised something from Mom or Dad and then waits patiently for that promise to be fulfilled. Of course, sometimes Mom or Dad forget, or the day brings on something that gets in the way of fulfilling the promise. However, that's not what happens when we wait upon the Lord because nothing changes what God has promised nor does He change His plan and purpose for us as we look to Him.

You see, we wait patiently on God because He has always been faithful to His word and never waivers from one side to another. He is good and will always bring good out of every situation we might face, even this pandemic. Isaiah is telling us quite plainly that we can have absolute confidence in our God who loves us, who knows what we need, and will always take care of us. As I've often said, God's got this and us in the midst of this!

So, as we wait on God's purpose to be fulfilled, His glory to be exalted, we can do so in the strength that He gives us. God has promised that we'll be able to renew our strength as we continue on through this pandemic. So many times, when we're facing something that's very difficult, we often wonder if we'll ever be able to survive. We believe that we simply don't have the wherewithal to get through whatever crisis we happen to be facing and we often lose hope and become despairing of life. Well, the truth is that we can't—unless of course we look to the Lord who has promised us His strength so that we might carry on. We were never meant, as human beings, to live independent of the Lord but were created to be completely dependent on Him. Perhaps, that's another way in which God is working in the midst of His church through this pandemic as He helps us to see the idol of self-security.

However, when we genuinely look to the Lord, waiting with anticipation at what He's promised to us and what He's doing in this world and in our lives, we know that whatever He is doing will be for His glory and our good. In fact, Isaiah tells us that we will "mount up with wings like eagles", "run and not be weary", "walk and not faint." The idea is that God will cause will us to flourish in life as we strive to know, love, trust, and obey Him. You see, it's in our waiting on the Lord that we succeed as we continue on this current path on which God has called us to walk. We won't lose heart or hope because we know that God walks with us and our security is firmly established in who God is as well as all He's said.

Tomorrow is Maundy Thursday and although we usually come together for a time of worship as we contemplate God's love expressed to us through the person and work of Jesus Christ, we'll have to do so via our online streaming. To be honest, I've really missed being with you all in person, but I do know that we're all together in the Holy Spirit. The Maundy Thursday service will be posted right at 7PM which means that any time after that you should be able to access it.

You see, the reason we can have such hope is because of what Jesus has accomplished for us. So, I do hope you will join me tomorrow night as we look briefly at some lessons from the cross.

Pastor Mark