

March 22, 2020

TIME OF REFLECTION

“If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”

~ C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), British writer, lay theologian and Christian apologist

“Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes upon one’s thoughts.”

“The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be. It may seem to be much worse, but in the end it’s going to be a lot better and a lot bigger.”

~ Elisabeth Elliot (1926-2015), Christian missionary, author and speaker

“Hope for the Christian isn’t just confidence in a certain, glorious future. It’s hope in a present providence. It’s hope that God’s plans can’t be thwarted by local authorities or irate mobs, by unfriendly bosses or unbelieving husbands, by Supreme Court rulings or the next election. The Christian hope is that God’s purposes are so unassailable that a great thunderstorm of events can’t drive them off course. Even when we’re wave-tossed and lost at sea, Jesus remains the captain of the ship and the commander of the storm.”

~ Elliot Clark, contemporary author specializing in cross-cultural church planting

“Money and machines anesthetize neediness. They put us in charge, in control. As long as the money holds out and the machines are in good repair, we don’t need to pray.”

~ Eugene H. Peterson (1932-present), American clergyman and author

“...it is faith and hope in the midst of suffering, not miraculous deliverance from it, that display most clearly the all-sufficiency of God to a despairing world.”

~ Scott Hafemann (1954-present), American professor of the New Testament

“My barn having burned to the ground, I can now see the moon.”

~ Mizuta Masahide (1657-1723), Japanese poet and samurai

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Earnestly Engaging God in Distress” – *Doug Cooper*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Habakkuk 2:20-3:16 (NASB)*

Habakkuk 2

²⁰ “But the LORD is in His holy temple.

Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

Habakkuk 3

¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

² LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear.
O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.

³ God comes from Teman,
And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah.
His splendor covers the heavens,
And the earth is full of His praise.

⁴ His radiance is like the sunlight;
He has rays flashing from His hand,
And there is the hiding of His power.

⁵ Before Him goes pestilence,
And plague comes after Him.

⁶ He stood and surveyed the earth;
He looked and startled the nations.
Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered,
The ancient hills collapsed.
His ways are everlasting.

⁷ I saw the tents of Cushan under distress,
The tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

⁸ Did the LORD rage against the rivers,
Or was Your anger against the rivers,
Or was Your wrath against the sea,
That You rode on Your horses,
On Your chariots of salvation?

⁹ Your bow was made bare,
The rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah.
You cleaved the earth with rivers.

¹⁰ The mountains saw You and quaked;
The downpour of waters swept by.
The deep uttered forth its voice,
It lifted high its hands.

¹¹ Sun and moon stood in their places;
They went away at the light of Your arrows,
At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

¹² In indignation You marched through the earth;
In anger You trampled the nations.

¹³ You went forth for the salvation of Your people,
For the salvation of Your anointed.
You struck the head of the house of the evil
To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

¹⁴ You pierced with his own spears
The head of his throngs.

They stormed in to scatter us;
Their exultation was like those
Who devour the oppressed in secret.

¹⁵ You trampled on the sea with Your horses,
On the surge of many waters.

¹⁶ I heard and my inward parts trembled,
At the sound my lips quivered.
Decay enters my bones,
And in my place I tremble.

Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress,
For the people to arise who will invade us.

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.