

TIME OF REFLECTION

“A man of conscience can never be a consensus leader. He doesn’t take a stand to search for consensus, he’s ultimately a molder of consensus. The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

~Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), civil rights leader

“Courage is a prerequisite for all leadership. And it can be taught. It’s made up of four skills: being vulnerable is the most important, followed by sticking to values, trusting others and persistence. There can be no courage without vulnerability and no vulnerability without the risk of failure.”

~Brené Brown (1965-present), American author and professor

“It takes courage to be hopeful, but when we are hopeful we find the strength to do the things that allow us to change the world.”

~Bryan Stevenson (1959-present), lawyer and activist

“There is no power without prayer, and there is no power in prayer without a resolve to endure all things for the sake of Jesus.”

~Jack Miller (1928-1996), American pastor, professor, and missions leader

“Familiarity with the biblical narrative of the crucifixion has dulled our sense of just how completely novel a deity Christ was ... [Christianity] is the principal reason why, by and large, most of us who live in post-Christian societies still take for granted that it is nobler to suffer than to inflict suffering. It is why we generally assume that every human life is of equal value.”

~Tom Holland, British and atheist historian

“I find a lot of dishonesty in Christian art. And I think it’s a shame because [the psalmists] are people who are vulnerable to God in a good way...porous, open. I would love if... people writing these gospel songs would write a song about their bad marriage...Why I’m suspicious of Christians is because of this lack of realism.”

~Bono (1960-present), lead singer of U2

“Everyone is broken by life, but some people are stronger in those broken places.”

~Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961), American novelist and journalist

“Suffering only hurts you if you can’t attach it to a narrative of redemption.”

~David Brooks (1961-present), New York Times columnist

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Courage’s Inner Dialogue” – *Scott Sottosanti*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Psalms 77 (ESV)*

- ¹ I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, and he will hear me.
- ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out
without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
- ³ When I remember God, I moan;
when I meditate, my spirit faints. *Selah*
- ⁴ You hold my eyelids open;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
- ⁵ I consider the days of old,
the years long ago.
- ⁶ I said, “Let me remember my song in the night;
let me meditate in my heart.”
Then my spirit made a diligent search:
- ⁷ “Will the Lord spurn forever,
and never again be favorable?
Has his steadfast love forever ceased?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” *Selah*
- ¹⁰ Then I said, “I will appeal to this,
to the years of the right hand of the Most High.”
- ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
- ¹² I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.
- ¹³ Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is great like our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known your might among
the peoples.
- ¹⁵ You with your arm redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*
- ¹⁶ When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
indeed, the deep trembled.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water;
the skies gave forth thunder;
your arrows flashed on every side.
- ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lighted up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
- ¹⁹ Your way was through the sea,
your path through the great waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.
- ²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.