



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- July 15, 2023

The Lord be with you.

I have a God sighting I want to share with you today. My God sighting is a, is a friend who has cancer and has been going through lots of tests, lots of treatment, weeks of chemotherapy, lots of expense and weeks of not knowing what's ahead. And she says that during this very difficult time that she has actually been drawn closer to God.

Now I speak as a pastor, a chaplain who has been with people in all the extremities of life and have often known people to say that God has drawn them closer to himself during those hard times. And all of this is leading me today to a Bible passage that helps me to gain new strength in a difficult time. And, and it might help you also to draw closer to God and gain strength. And as I'm saying this, I'm thinking of something that Corey Tin boom said about her time in a Nazi concentration camp when, when Corey said that she learned that Christ was all she needed when Christ was all she had.

So today, I'm looking to the New Testament book of Hebrews. It is written to Jewish Christians who, well, they're not in concentration camps but they are people who have lost jobs, they've lost their homes, they've been persecuted, they've been locked up. I'll let you check it out. It's all there in Hebrews chapter 10 verses 32 through 34 where it says that they have cheerfully accepted the plundering of their possessions, endured a hard struggle with suffering and spent time in prison. Ok?

Now their secret, their secret to experiencing God in difficult times, and it can be our secret too, we find it over in Hebrews chapter 13 versus five through six. I'll read it. It says, "Keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have for God has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence the Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What anyone can do to me?"

Ok, so these are people who have lost a lot and then they're losing. They have gained Christ. Just listen to the text. It says, "keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have." This word content. It's a translation of the Greek word Arkeo. That's A-R-K-E-O and it means enough sufficient. It's, it's a mindset. It is an attitude that says I have enough, it is sufficient. What I have today is what God wants me to have today. And if I need more, I know that my God will provide it for me.



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It's like David in Psalm 23 where David says the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not be in want. My shepherd will always see that I have just what I need for today. And if I don't have it, my shepherd knows that I don't need it. So where I am right now with what I have right now, it is sufficient. It is enough.

Now, when it says be content with what you have, it doesn't mean that we don't work hard and try to get ahead. But what it does mean is, is II, I don't have to question God about it. I don't have to wonder about it. What I have right now is enough. And then our writer quotes two old Testament passages to make his point in, in a way that I think encourages us to be content.

The first passage he quotes is Joshua chapter one verse five. And here the Lord is passing on the mantle of leadership to Joshua who's going to take the place of Moses. That's a big job, take the place of Moses and leading God's people into the promised land. And here is God's promise to Joshua that is quoted, I will never leave you or forsake you. And that's exactly the promise that God is making you today. I will never leave you or forsake you Now, in the Greek text, the writer actually uses five negatives in order to emphasize the absolute certainty that God will never leave you or forsake you.

Here's how the Greek text translates literally. It says, "I will not leave you. I will not, I will not forsake you. I will not, assuredly not." God couldn't make it clearer. Here is the promise that God once made to Joshua is the promise that God is making to you today. I will never leave you or forsake you.

Now, in verse six, the people of God respond to God's promise. Here it is, verse six, "So we can say with confidence. Here is what we can say with confidence." It's a quote of Psalm 118:6. We can say with confidence, the Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?

So with God in your life, you will have everything you need for the days ahead. Now, very similar to what Corey tin boom said that she learned in a concentration camp is what CS Lewis said that he learned in his life. CS Lewis said quote, if a person has everything and has not Christ, he has nothing. If He has nothing and has Christ, he has everything.

Now, I would be the last person on earth to say that this kind of contentment comes easily. It doesn't, I mean, even the Great Apostle Paul admitted in Philippians 4 11, he said I have learned to be content with what I have notice. It's a learning process. I've learned to be content. It's not always enjoyable, but I've learned to be content with whatever I have. Paul says. I know what it is to have little. I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me to, you can do everything you need to do in the days ahead because Christ is your strength.

CS Lewis was right. If a person has everything and has not Christ, he has nothing. If he has nothing and has Christ, he has everything. Well, a, a few things for you and me to think about today.

I am Tim Smith, the fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.