

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 28, 2020

The lord be with you.

How would you like some good news?

I know, I know the media is filled with bad news today, but I've got good news for you.

I think that in many ways, the media is designed to make us fearful and to keep us fearful it sells bad news keeps us glued to our screens. If it bleeds, it leads.

Now, I'm of or concerned cautious concern practicing good hygiene mining to six-foot rule self-quarantine, things like that. Concern is good but not the fear that we're seeing.

I think the beneath the corona virus crisis, there is another crisis that is a greater crisis and that is the collapse of the spiritual immunity that God gives us people and once we let this spiritual immunity break down, then we open up ourselves to all kinds of fears and worries about the future.

Now, the good news I bring you today is that God has a vaccine for you.

They say that a vaccine for chrono virus is probably a... A year away, but God has a vaccine for you and me today to protect us against being bogged down by fear. And worry about an uncertain future.

And we find this in Psalm 16, it is a Psalm of David, of whom scripture says two different times that he was a man after God's own heart, and in Psalm 16, we see David as a man with some of the same concerns that you and I have a David has had many troubles some of them, he brought on himself like some of our problems are... But in Psalm 16, day that is facing the probability of a violent death, and David gives us his secret for facing an uncertain future, there in Verses 8 and 9 of Psalm 16 as David rights. I keep the Lord always before me because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved... Therefore, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices my body also rest secure.

No, not the reason. The reason why David can say is hardest. Glad his soul rejoices, and his body rest secure. The reason is there in verse 8, as David says, "I keep the Lord always before me that is God is always in David's consciousness, God is always in David's awareness.

I think it's just what Brother Lawrence, would have called Practicing the presence of God. David says I keep the Lord always before me that is his resolve, his determination, the Lord, of course, is always with David, that David makes it his continual effort to keep God right there, in a sight, he sees the Lord is always with him whether he's facing the lath or a craze King Saul, David is resolved, he is determined that the Lord always be in his focus in his vision, and this gives David a stability and a certainty that He would not have had otherwise.

I keep the Lord always before me because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Might I say that David sees the Lord is something like his right-hand man to whom he can always look to whom he can always depend because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

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So David is in a solid position he's in a strong position in life because God is at His right hand. So David can then say My heart is glad and my soul rejoices my body also rest secure.

That is David's immunization against a fear that paralyzes so many people. I mean, if David had made his focus on how big Goliath was that would have determined the direction of David's life.

And you and I, if we make problems, our focus, if we make other people are focused, that will determine our lives, but if we make God our focus and we keep God always be for us, then that determines a whole new kind of living.

Listen to David in Psalm 56 as David is running from King Saul, who's trying to kill him, and David as he runs he's captured by the Philistines and in Psalm 56 Verse 4, David says In God whose word I praise and god I trust, I am not afraid what can mortals do to me. So David has an altitude he has an immunity that protects him against paralyzing fear almost daily. You and I are faced with the decision to either live in fear, or to keep the Lord always before us think that this is just for David listen to the New Testament in Hebrews 13 versus 56 for the Lord 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 can anyone do to me?

So like David May we resolve. I keep, I keep the Lord always before me. This doesn't happen automatically, it hasn't happened by default. It's a conscious decision that we make to keep God in our awareness all day long, and that means more than a daily quiet time. With God, whether it is taking with us that daily quiet that daily awareness of God into the whole day every day.

And I just... We do that, we can say with David, even in the midst of the Krone of virus crisis therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices my body also best secure.

So David speaks not just to the corona virus crisis, but he speaks to how we're going to live all of life.

It is an ignoring fear, but it's finding another focus for our thoughts.

The Apostle John knew of what he spoke when He said, God's perfect love casts out fear.

So let's hang tough, let's be smart, let's pull together we'll get through this with the Lord at our right hand in Romans 15-13, the Apostle Paul prays as I pray for you, today, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, in believing so that you may abound in hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler on the pilgrim road. Thanks for listening, until next time.

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