

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 23, 2020

The Lord deal with you.

Do you remember your first thoughts when they told you your child's school was cancelled for the rest of the year?

Do you remember how you felt when you learned churches who are going to be locked or how did you feel when told to self-quarantine at home for who knows how long or what did you feel when told you were being laid off?

Well, when this pandemic and shutting down started happening, I thought of the words. If you wanna make God laugh, tell him about your plans.

It's at a time of uncertainty and confusion like this that I'd like to go to. My old friend, he's a man after God's own heart, David... David spent a lot of time hiding out in caves making his way through a wilderness and David knows a thing or two about how to navigate difficult times. And so I take it to a Psalm of David, in Psalm 25, in which David is asking the Lord for guidance for the difficult way ahead...

David feels his human weakness, and his inability to handle life. And so, here is this prayer, I Love in Psalm 25, verses 4-5, as David prays Make me to know your ways, O Lord. teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, for you. I wait all the day long, notice what David is doing here as he's praying for divine guidance, he needs help David is disoriented, and confused by the sides and... And so he is asking the Lord to lead him and teach him. Did you know that the most repeated prayer in the Bible is for the Lord to guide us and that's what David is praying here, Lord teach me lead me for you are the God of my salvation, and when David talks about salvation are is not talking about eternal salvation as He is looking for something in the here now for deliverance, for protection from the dangers piling up around him. So David is asking for guidance and then he tells us something about how to... We sing God's guidance for you. I wait all day long, David is waiting for instructions from the Lord, he's waiting for God all day long, he says he's all ears. Now, there are actually several different Hebrew words in the Psalms that are translated by our one English word wait. As a psalmist. Lived with waiting, they live with waiting on God and so they developed this rich vocabulary for waiting on God.

There was a word for waiting patiently. There's another Hebrew word for waiting silently another word for waiting long and so forth, but here in Psalm 25, the Hebrew word translated weight is Kuvah, K-U-V-A-H. he came to wait... Expect and link to wait.

He gently.

It's almost like to stand on tip toes as it expresses a eager anticipation an expectation that God is going to do something, it is a hopeful waiting on God for him to go into action so that you oftentimes see to the paired with the Hebrew word for hope.

Water From Rock

Now, when I was a boy I had a dog, I just loved this dog. He was a Heinz 57 kind of mutt, but he was a wonderful dog. And every school day, the school bus would drop me off at home at 4 o'clock and I do not know, have but my dog had some kind of internal clock ticking, that write about 315. My dog would go to the front door and he would wait he would wait he would wait for the sound of the school bus, me coming to the front door and opening the door, he was waiting for me.

That is oval that is waiting expectancy hopefully, and David says, he waits at a all they long.

Now, this is not a passive kind of waiting for God that David's talking about, do not picture David, as just biding his time. Twiddling his thumbs David is actively expectant looking for waiting for what God will do he says, "For you, I wait all day long.

The Hebrew word Kavah is the word that Isaiah uses when he's writing to God's people in the dark on certain days, the Babylonian exile, those who wait on the Lord, to tell the... Those who wait expected hopefully on the Lord shall we knew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they show walk and not think when you and I wait, expectancy hopefully for what God is going to do.

We find ourselves renewed, we are strengthened, Ben Patterson in his fine book Waiting says, what God does in us while we wait is as important as what we're waiting for.

God is doing something you and me right now, in these difficult times he's doing something in us as we wait, expect only for him.

We're not just putting in time, but God is using this waiting to transform us to wait on the Lord, is to live in the eager expectation that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. great is your faithfulness, O Lord, Now David also uses this word kavah in another Psalm, Psalm 27 14. Wait, kavah, wait expectantly hopefully for the Lord, "be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord.

We don't know how long we're gonna have to wait before we get back to some kind of normal, we don't know how long we're gonna have to wait before the economy starts up again, we don't know when our churches will be able to gather again, there are a lot of a unknowns... But we wait on the Lord, expectant. Hopefully, that the Lord will lead us and guide us.

There's a plaque in our home, it says fear not the future, God is already there, and because it is God's will to blesses people, so I bless you with words that the lord commands in His scriptures, "The Lord bless you and keep you the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way.

Thanks for listening, until next time.

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