



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- November 11, 2023

The Lord be with you.

I have a God sighting that I want to share with you today. My God sighting is the people that I'm hearing say that through the difficult time that our nation has been going. I mean, through the COVID epidemic, the political turmoil, the economic upheaval, all the uncertainty that these people are saying that they have actually been drawn closer to God through this time. That they find themselves sinking their roots deeper into God's love.

And all of this leads me to a to a Bible passage that helps me to gain new strength in a difficult time and I think it might help you too as well to draw closer to God and gain new strength. And as I say this, I just have to think of something that Corrie ten Boom said about her time in a Nazi concentration camp where she said that she learned that Christ was all that she needed when Christ was all that she had.

Today I'm looking at the New Testament Book of Hebrews that is written to Jewish Christians who, well, they're not in concentration camps, but they are people who have lost their jobs, they've lost their homes, they're being 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 for it says that they cheerfully accepted the plundering of their possessions, endured a hard struggle with sufferings and spent time in prison. And their secret to experiencing God in difficult times that can become our secret too. Well, we find it over in Hebrews chapter 13 verses five through six. I'll read it here it is.

“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 can one do to me?”

Now, these are people who have lost a lot and in losing they are gaining Christ. Just listen to the text. It says, keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have. Now, this word translated content. It's a Greek word, Rkeo, that's a RKEO and it means enough sufficient. I have what I mean, what I need. It's a, it's a, it's a mindset. It is a attitude that says I have enough. It is sufficient. I am content. What I have today is what God wants me to have. And if I need more, I know that my God will provide it for me.

Well, it's just like David in Psalm 23 where David says the Lord is my shepherd. I shall not be in want. I shall not lack my shepherd will always see that I have just what I need. 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, I mean, it, it doesn't mean that I don't work hard that I, that I don't try to get ahead. But what it does mean is I, I don't have to question God about what I don't have right now. What I have is enough. It's sufficient.



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Now, our writer then quotes two old Testament passages to make His point in a way that says that we can be content.

The first quote. The first passage is from the old Testament Book of Joshua chapter one verse five. And, and here the Lord is passing on the mantle of leadership to Joshua who's gonna take the place of Moses and leading God's people into the promised land. And that's a, that's a, a big job. And here is God's promise to Joshua that is quoted. It's God's word to Joshua. I will never leave you or forsake you. And that's exactly the promise that God is making you today.

Now, in the Greek text, it, the writer is using five negatives in order to emphasize the absolute certainty that God will never leave you or forsake you. So the Greek text translates literally like this. It says I will not leave you. I will not. I will not forsake you. I will not, assuredly not. I mean, God couldn't be clearer. And here, the promise that God once made to Joshua is the promise that God is making you today. I will never leave you or forsake you.

Now, in verse six, the people of God respond to God's promise. I mean, here it is verse six. So that, it says, so that we can say with confidence and what they say is with confidence. It's it, it's a quote of Psalm 118 verse six. The people say the Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can one do to me? And you know, with, with God in your life, you're gonna have everything that you need for the days ahead and very similar to what Corrie ten Boom learned in that concentration camp, the great writer CS Lewis said that he learned in his life. He said, "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 in the world to say that this kind of contentment comes easily. It doesn't, I mean, even The Great Apostle Paul admitted it in Philippians chapter four verse 11. Paul said, I have learned to be content with what I have notice. He says I have learned, it's a learning process. Not always easy, not always enjoyable, but, but I've learned to be content with what I have. I know what it is to have little, Paul says, I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances. I have learned the secret of being well fed of going hungry, of having plenty of being in need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I can do everything I need to do in the days I had because Christ is my strength and you know, 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 few things to think about today.

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