**WAIT ON THE LORD (PSALM 37)**

David must have been a very, very patient man. Being “*a man after God’s own heart*” (I Samuel 16:7; Acts 13:22) required extraordinary patience, for it required trusting in God to deliver him from so many Houdini-type death traps throughout his life. Over and over again he found himself in a vise-grip, staring the grim reaper in the face, as his enemies from within and without sought to kill him. From Goliath, to a jealous King Saul, to his own rebellious sons Absalom and Adonijah, to the many unnamed traitors within his cabinet – David lived daily depending on God to deliver him. It must have been madness indeed to live under non-stop threats on his life.

And yet, there is something in the writings of David’s Psalms that find comfort in our hearts today as we read them. Be honest now, during this present distress, which book of the Bible do you go to instinctively to find comfort and peace? Yeah, me too. The Psalms. My Bible almost automatically opens to this section of scripture these days. I find myself greatly comforted while sitting at the feet of this “*Sweet Psalmist Of Israel*” (2 Samuel 23:1). Do you know why we seem to gravitate toward David? In the midst of crisis we know he has “been there – done that” and found God’s grace in the middle of chaos. We want that. We need that.

Can I share with you one of my go-to Psalms in these days of uncertainty? Psalm 37. Without giving away the spoiler, wanting you to discover it for yourself, I will tease you with some of the unique sayings found in this Trial-By-Fire psalm. Remember, David and Israel both prayed, and sang, these Psalms. Can you not hear him now, while under yet another apocalyptic moment in his life, pray these words:

“***Trust in the Lord*** and do good, dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness” (v.3)

“***Delight yourself in the Lord***, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (v.4)

“***Commit your way to the Lord***, trust also in Him, He shall bring it to pass” (v.5)

“***Rest in the Lord***, and wait patiently for Him…” (v.7)

“***Wait on the Lord***, they shall inherit the earth” (v.9)

“The steps of a good man are ***ordered by the Lord***, He delights in His way” (v.23)

“***Wait on the Lord***, and keep His way, He shall exalt you to inherit the land” (v.34)

Do you think David was trying to teach us something? We must trust, delight, commit, rest, wait, step “*in the Lord*,” “*to the Lord*,” *by the Lord*,” and “*on the Lord*.” When we do that we then “*feed on His faithfulness*,” receive “*the desires of your heart*,” “*bring it to pass*,” “*inherit the earth*,” and are “*exalted.*”

Like the old Hunt’s Ketchup commercial used to say, “Good things come to those who wait” (picture the thick red sauce s-l-o-w-l-y making its way down to your French fries from the inverted bottle as you lick your lips in anticipation of this comfort food). Well, in a far juicier anticipation, those of us who patiently trust, commit, rest and wait on the Lord’s timing through whatever trial we are presently enduring, we know God always, always, always comes through. We “*feed*” on His faithfulness. We “*know*” He will give us the desires of our heart. We are certain He will bring to pass our commitments. And most importantly, as we wait patiently for Him, we “*rest*” in the Lord.

Are you at rest? You know what I mean, right? R-E-S-T. This means you are relaxed. You sleep soundly, not tossing and turning restlessly. You have “*the peace that surpasses understanding*” that is at this moment “*guarding your heart and mind in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:6-7). You are resting if you are taking to heart the Lord’s five-fold repeated command from Matthew 6:

*25 “Therefore I say to you,* ***do not worry*** *about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on.*

*27* ***Which of you by worrying*** *can add one cubit to his stature?*

*28 “So* ***why do you worry*** *about clothing?*

*31 “Therefore* ***do not worry****, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*

*34 Therefore* ***do not worry*** *about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble*.

He beautifully summarized it all with this succinct saying, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you*.” (Matt. 6:33). I can’t think of a better way than this simple verse to sum up David’s entire Psalm 37. I am learning, oh so slowly but surely, to “*trust… delight… commit… rest… wait*” on the Lord in these turbulent times. I hope you are too.

**Application:**

When Peter wrote these words to a persecuted, suffering, scattered bunch of Christians in the first century, he could just have easily been writing them to us during this twenty-first century pandemic*:*

*6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you* ***in due time****, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* (I Peter 5:6-7)

Note, he didn’t say “carry all your care” – but “*casting* all your care” upon Him. That means I completely unload it all into His El Shaddai (“God Almighty”) hands. My burdens are but a feather on His awesome back. Give it to Him. All of it. Now. Then, Trust in Him. Delight in Him. Commit to Him. Rest in Him. And Wait… however long… wait on Him. He will be there, “*in due time*!” In other words, right on time.

Until tomorrow… Wait on the Lord. He’s coming.

I love you.

Rick