
Sermon Notes

July 29, 2018

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Pray With Jesus: When You Are Disappointed

Psalm 8

“I Dreamed a Dream”

- ❖ Life has a way of killing dreams
 - Fantine in the musical version of Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*
 - “I dreamed a dream in days gone by...”
- ❖ All of us have dreams that haven't come true
 - this leads to disappointment and discouragement
 - Psalm 107 gives a pattern of prayer to all who are disappointed with life

Four Faces of Disappointment

- ❖ The four historical snapshots in vv. 4-32 also provide a picture of our spiritual condition apart from Christ
- ❖ **Homelessness and Hunger** (vv. 4-9)
 - Israel's experience as God leads her out of Egyptian captivity and she begins her journey to the Promised Land

- sometimes the open doors God puts in front of us lead to what seem like disappointing, desert times
- through all of this, God always has a plan for our good and His glory
- all of us would be homeless and hungry apart from God who is our only true home
- **pray WITH Jesus** by thanking Him for the way God has delivered you from your distress
- ❖ **Captivity (vv. 10-16)**
 - people who are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction, clapped in irons, sentenced to hard labor (self-inflicted wounds)
 - all who are in Christ have been delivered from the prison house of sin
 - **pray WITH Jesus** by thanking Him for the way He has shattered the bronze door of your heart and cut the iron bars that caused you to resist Jesus
- ❖ **People who suffer affliction because of their own iniquity** (vv. 17-22)
 - a bleak, dire picture of people whose sinful stubbornness brings them right up to the gates of death
 - the hedonistic paradox: those who pursue pleasure tend to experience the least pleasure
 - only God can raise us from our dead condition
 - if you are IN CHRIST, you know that God has saved you from the gates of death by that very life-giving Word (1 Peter 1:23)
 - **pray WITH Jesus** by thanking Him for your salvation!

- ❖ **People who are in “deep waters”** (vv. 23-32)
 - it’s likely that at one time or another, we’ve all been in some sort of “deep water”
 - such “deep waters” inevitably lead to disappointment and disillusionment
 - cry out to the LORD in your trouble, cling to Him as you wait on Him to deliver you from distress
 - *Through many dangers, toils, and snares....*
 - **pray WITH Jesus** by thanking Him for His deliverance (give public testimony about this too!)

God’s Love Endures

- ❖ Dreams will die, but God’s love endures!
 - be on the lookout for ways to grow in your understanding and appreciation of God’s great love for you
 - God will be your constant companion regardless of your circumstances
- ❖ God sends sorrow as well as joy, hardship as well as material blessing
 - God’s ways are not our ways (Romans 11:33-36)
 - who would ever dream up that God’s pathway to life would require the death of His own Son?
- ❖ It is this Son **WITH** whom we can pray through all the highs and lows of life
 - take it to the Lord in prayer!

- **pray WITH Jesus** and let Him help you focus on things that are eternal and which transcend the heartaches of this life
- ❖ There is nothing you are going through that Jesus hasn’t experienced firsthand before you
 - there is nothing that touches you that hasn’t first passed through the hands of God
 - *Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.* (v. 43)

Personal Reflection

1. Did you ever have a dream die? How did that effect you?
2. Think of a time when you or someone you know turned a dying dream into a blessing. How does the memory of that sustain and encourage you to apply the wisdom of Psalm 107?
3. What sorts of things might God want to teach you through disappointment?
4. Look at v. 15 of this psalm. What effect does giving thanks to God in spite of our painful circumstances have on our hearts?
5. Why should we share how God has proven his faithfulness to us with other Christians (v. 32)? How can you do this more effectively?
6. Pray Psalm 107 **WITH** Jesus by committing your disappointments to Him and thanking Him for past blessings.