

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

THE GIFT OF DISRUPTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145 (NIV)

I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

LAMENT EXERCISE

- 1. Call out to the God you are talking to by name.**
 - a. Light a candle as a reminder of His presence (if you can)
- 2. Pour out your raw emotions to God. Give voice to your complaint.**
 - a. Your anger, pain, heartache, sadness, or fear

b. Bringing your enemies before God

3. Express whatever level of trust you can in His faithfulness now.

a. Remember a time of God's goodness and faithfulness in your life

b. Claim God's presence in your past

c. Name attributes of God you are thankful for

4. Share, if able, with a group .

a. You never know what gift your lament may be for another who doesn't feel brave enough or strong enough to voice their own

b. Fight the sense of isolation by allowing others to walk with you, however imperfectly they may do so

c. Blow out candle if needed.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:10–11 (NIV)

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

FROM THE SERMON

- **Knowing Christ**
- **Knowing the Power of His Resurrection**
- **Knowing the Fellowship of His Sufferings, Becoming Like Him in His Death**

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

2 Corinthians 4:10–11

“Jesus' death on a cross is the paradigm for faithfulness to God in this world...the church must be a community living in conformity to the paradigm of the cross and thereby standing as a sign of the new creation promised by God.”

Richard Hays, *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*

DISCUSSION/JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Imagine standing in front of a mirror in a partially lit room (or go find a mirror in your house and really do this), then turn the lights on bright- what more do you see or notice? Discuss with your family how these new living circumstances are like shining a bright light on life and helping you see or notice things differently.
2. What thing feels the most different about living “sheltered in place”? How does that make you think differently about normal life? What might God be inviting you to notice about Him, yourself, or your relationship with others?