

3-22-20 Message
WORDS OF COMFORT FROM JESUS TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM

Intro:

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Intro:

Yesterday I conducted a funeral for a friend whose daughter had just passed away. It is really a hard thing to bury one of your children. It was a difficult funeral. We are certainly in perilous times in our nation. There is much anxiety over the threat of this coronavirus and the perilous times in which we live.

It is in times like this that we come to realize how much we need the Lord and we need to draw near to God.

This morning I just want to encourage you to trust in God. At the funeral I reminded all those that were there that Solomon said this:

Ecclesiastes 7:2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

The Bible says, it is good to go to a funeral and consider that "This is the end of all me.." in other words one thing is for sure and that is that each of us are going to die someday.

There is a great amount of anxiety over the fact that if you get sick with the coronavirus, there is a 1-2% chance that you will die. Then I said this:

There is about a 1% chance if you get in a car accident that you are going to die.

There is a 1% chance you will die from a virus or flu.

There is a 1% chance you will die from cancer.

For every year you are alive as you get older there is a 1% chance you will die.

For every year you live add another 1%. What happens is, as you get older each year there is only a 1% chance you will live another year.

In the end add all the 1% percents up and there is one thing we know for sure.

There is 100% surety that someday you will die from something.

But the truth is we don't think about it. So we are not overly anxious.

Now a lot of people are worried about these 1% issues, but they were all there minus the 1-3% we are hearing about with the coronavirus everyday. Nothing has changed.

Let us just make sure of this one thing, that is that we are ready to meet God and we are prepared for that day when it comes time for Him to take us home.

The other day we had a taste of spring and as I traveled between my garage and the house suddenly I heard the birds singing and flying back and forth. And then I thought to myself, "Those dumb birds don't they know the world is going to end soon and there is a world wide pandemic!" What I noticed was they were not concerned in the least about what was going on. For them it was business as usual. Then I thought of this verse:

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Think of it, the Lord said, I take care of the fowls of the air, I cloth the lilies of the field. Don't you realize I care for you. We are filled with much fear and intimidation. We can easily worry about tomorrow. At times our case could seem hopeless. But remember the words of our Lord.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Matthew 10:31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Let me share a few thoughts with you this morning. I want to assure you that everything is all right and God is in control. Trust in the Lord.

WORDS OF COMFORT FROM JESUS TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

Let us consider how He manifests His comfort to us.

- I. HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF.
- II. YOU HAVE VALUE TO GOD AND HE WILL BE WITH YOU TILL THE END.
- III. CHRIST IS IN CONTROL AND WANTS US TO TRUST HIM.
- IV. GOD WILL GIVE US GRACE TO ENDURE WHATEVER TRIALS HE BRINGS INTO OR LIVES.
- V. JESUS WILL GIVE US A COMFORTER TO HELP US IN TIMES OF TRIALS.
- VI. ULTIMATELY WE HAVE THE PROMISE OF BEING PRESENT WITH THE LORD SOMEDAY IF WE KNOW HIM AND SERVE HIM.

WORDS OF COMFORT FROM JESUS TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM:

I. HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT YOU THAN YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF.

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How many of us even know the number of our hairs on our head?

The Lord said, fear not, the very hairs of your head are numbered.

Even the IRS doesn't know that number! There is no computer powerful enough to keep track of that.

The Lord knows the trials you are going to face tomorrow, next year. He knows all things. He knows what you need and what you don't need.

Listen to what our Lord said to his disciples:

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Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

The Lord says, Oh ye of little faith! How little our faith is, indeed.

Think about who He is, what He has done, what He can do.

Just the other day, I was on google maps and I put the little Red marker on my house and zoomed out, and then zoomed out to the whole, state, the whole country, the whole world, Suddenly, in perspective, the world is not such a large place as you would think. With the crazy google maps you can zoom in on homes in Russia, China, and Africa. Then you can travel across the US on 81 to I 40 all the way to California.

Then I zoomed into my little area again and realized the Lord knows every single person in every single town in all the parts of the world.

When Zacchaeus was up in the sycamore tree He called him by name! He said Zacchaeus get down here I need to eat at your house today. There is nothing too big or too small for God!

THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE NUMBERED, THE LORD SAID.

The biggest problem we have is that we do not understand the power of God and who He is! God is great and powerful!

II. YOU HAVE VALUE TO GOD AND HE WILL BE WITH YOU TILL THE END.

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Jesus loved us enough to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

Will we despise that gift, will we make light of what He has done for us?

Romans 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Think about what David said in the Psalms.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

David said, the Lord will be with me even when I have to walk and travel through the valley of death itself.

Imagine, Daniel in the Lions den. THAT WAS THE VALLEY OF DEATH.

Imagine, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego in that fiery furnace, that was the valley of the shadow of death.

Imagine Jeremiah in the slimy pit or mire and mud. The Lord was with him!

The Lord was with John The Baptist, when Herod put him in the jail.

The Lord was with Peter when he was imprisoned.

The Lord was with Paul.

I say the Lord will be with us even if we have to go through the valley of the shadow of death itself.

The Lord says, this to his people:

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

HE WILL BE WITH US EVEN THROUGH THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

To the thief on the cross he comforted him and said, "TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE!" He will be with even the least of his saints.

This thief, just a few minutes before, was cursing and railing at him like everyone else.

Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Matthew 27:44 ***The thieves also***, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

At first both of the thieves were casting the same railings and accusations at him, but somewhere along the way the one thief came to his senses and repented and asked to be saved! So he got in by the skin of his teeth. YET THE LORD SAID I WILL BE WITH YOU WHEN WE TRAVEL TOGETHER ACROSS THE SHADOW OF DEATH!

Can we believe this?

III. CHRIST IS IN CONTROL AND WANTS US TO TRUST HIM.

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By taking thought can you make yourself a cubit (or 18 inches taller)? You have no control of these things. It amazes me how men think they are in control!

We think we can decide for ourselves if we want to be a man or a woman.

We think we can play god.

We think we can control climate change.

We think it is up to us to save the planet.

We are being brought to our knees by a mutation of a common virus that has mutated into something bigger. The truth is that there are many forms of the corona virus, even the common cold is a mild form of it. But Covid 19 is a mutated form of the virus that is much worse and more deadly. SO WE ARE BRING BROUGHT TO OUR KNEES BY A LITTLE DISEASE!

The world will not admit that God is in control.

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Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

We do not like to think that we have no control of what we need to do! How foolish we are!

If you cannot, through your own thought process, add 18 inches to your height.

IV. GOD WILL GIVE US GRACE TO ENDURE WHATEVER TRIALS HE BRINGS INTO OR LIVES.

If we trust in the Lord, the Lord will give us grace to endure whatever trial comes our way!

I Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

When the Apostle Paul was suffering a physical infirmity He said, My grace is sufficient for thee.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Lord told the church of Sardis:

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

V. JESUS WILL GIVE US A COMFORTER TO HELP US IN TIMES OF TRIALS.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter.

The Holy Spirit will also be our teacher.

As we go through trials the Holy Spirit can comfort us and teach us, and guide us. If ever we needed guidance it is today.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

James 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

God's rod and staff will comfort us.

The shepherd's rod and staff are used to direct, lead, and protect.

We need to trust in the Lord's leadership and guidance.

VI. ULTIMATELY WE HAVE THE PROMISE OF BEING PRESENT WITH THE LORD SOMEDAY IF WE KNOW HIM AND SERVE HIM.

II Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

We need to remember that this life is temporary.

I just did a funeral yesterday and someone said to me, "Don't you know that you were at risk doing the funeral?" Yeah, I know, but I had an opportunity to share the gospel to people who needed it. Look at what Paul said,

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

Do we live our lives to be accepted of Him?

In light of the present distress we are in a bit of a fix. I think as a church we are suppose to assemble together. The word church means to assemble. However, if the coronavirus spreads exponentially there will probably be stricter laws concerning travel and meeting. Right now it is not being enforced. Soon it may be. Now this is an opportunity for each of us to be a testimony to a world that has no hope.

Paul said, whether present or absent from the body let us seek to please Him. The Lord can do as He pleases.

You know that we believe that God is going to bring judgment to this world. But in the midst of that judgment He has got to remove some of His people to bring that judgment. Josiah was the greatest King that Israel ever had, but God would not bring judgment until he was gone.

The Lord said of Jeroboam's son,

I Kings 14:10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

I Kings 14:11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it.

I Kings 14:12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

I Kings 14:13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Note in this passage, the Lord was so angry with Jeroboam and his house, that he said he was going to remove Jeroboam's son. His premature death was a kindness on the part of the Lord.

We don't think of death as a kindness, but it is if what is to come is worse than death itself.

Do you know that Methuselah was righteous and died the year of the flood. The Lord removed Methuselah through death before the judgment of God came to this planet.

The Lord tells us to comfort one another with the knowledge that we someday will be with Him.

Most of us will have to go through the river of death to be with Him.

Some may not!

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

I Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

I Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

The Lord has these things written to comfort us!

Conclusion:

We have read these Words of comfort from the Lord Himself to those who love Him. Do you love Him?

Here is a final word of comfort.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

If he received the thief on the cross in his final hour, how much more will he receive us! He offers forgiveness and salvation to all who will receive Him! He offers us forgiveness before we ever asked for it!

He extends His love and mercy to us,

It is up to us to accept that love.

It is up to us to reciprocate that love.

How could we in all good conscience reject His love?

If we do then we read:

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.