

"We, With the Help of God" – Four Sermonettes

By Mike Buhler and Randy Layne

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Isaiah 55, 1-9

- Mike Buhler

Sustenance, limitless...your share available for barter only...attention and devotion your most valuable possessions...trade generously and your soul will be fortified...that you may live with abandon...one with God...her covenant, our experience...those who partake...living examples to the multitudes...servants who quietly lead...your radiant love fully in the present...attracting force that may rend the world reborn...all endowed with this capacity...reach now, for obscurity threatens you clarity...your experience limits you not...and we all are unique in our capacity for expression...of his love that binds us...to one another, and to the universe...yearn to understand...God's perspective and grace will be yours

Psalms 63: 1-8

- Randy Layne

There have been times in all of our lives when we felt utterly alone and that the world was against us. At the time of writing Psalm 63 that sensation was quite real and literal for King David. His son Absalom had rebelled against him and forced David to flee to the desert of Judah.

While none of us have had a whole kingdom turn against of us, we have each felt at some point in our lives those same feelings that David must have been going through. A friend turns against us when we needed their support, a spouse leaves, a job is lost, and so we feel like we are trapped with no one to turn to, to help raise us out of our current dilemma. Perhaps at that time we even felt like God had turned his back on us. I know I have been there before going, "Why did God do this to me?"

First off, in my situation God didn't do anything to me, what I was feeling was completely brought about by my own faulty thinking and actions. Second, David never felt like that. Even at his lowest moments, David always turned to God as his one true friend that would see him through anything. He sat starving in the desert of Judah and yet said that when he praised God he felt as full and satisfied as if he had just eaten a huge meal with the richest of foods.

I hope the next time I feel alone and that nothing is going my way, I can take pause and reflect on Psalm 63 and realize there is always someone in my corner fighting for me, and that with a little prayer and a little praise God will see

me through anything this world has thrown against me and will always be by my side every step of the way.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

- Mike Buhler

aspiring to reach Glory...on a route wrought by history, and the thoughts of learned men...often into the darkness may lead...following the same path...expecting a different outcome...insanity incarnate...fear our constant companion...are we doomed to burnish the route with our bones as well?...or will we make a better choice...within each of us...a portal to the light...a limitless love...wake up...embrace the vision inherent...all paths lead to God when borne by love and cradled in light...and so worship the unknown and the unknowable...and find God...be kind to yourself, and reap clarity...know that God resides within all...and love all, in accordance with that understanding...give up control, and take God's hand...embrace your experience...and be awash in happiness...find peace on the precipice...you have always been there...and always will be...and when you fall, let go...and hold fast...to God's love alone...you are integral...to the eternal

Luke 13:1-9

- Randy Layne

Sometimes, bad things happen. In the beginning of Luke 13, two different tragedies are brought to the attention of Jesus. One involves the cruelty Pontus Pilate, the other a construction accident involving an aqueduct.

Pharisees of the time would have told people that it was the sins of these people that caused them to die in these terrible ways, quoting things like Ezekiel 18, "the soul that sins shall die" to back their statement. At the same time a group of rebels, called the zealots, of whom Simon was one, (not Simon Peter, the other one,) might have said that the aqueduct workers were killed because of their "sin" of helping the Romans. Jesus addresses both of these perceptions at the same time saying that these people were no worse sinners than any of the rest of us. Sometimes bad things happen.

So if bad things are going to happen regardless, does that mean we should go through life without accepting responsibility for our own actions? Certainly not! Jesus follows up with, "But unless you repent, you too will all perish" or "unless you have a change of heart, you too will perish," and proceeds to tell them the parable of the fig tree.

Here Jesus is talking about more than our actions, but our whole mindset. When we commit to true Inward journey time we are digging around ourselves and

opening ourselves up for Christ to fertilize us. Without this fertilizer, without this connection to Christ, what kind of fruit can we hope to bear? Conversely, think of what we can accomplish in this world if we are able to soak up this unlimited well of love that Christ has shared with us.

Yes, sometimes bad things happen, but it is up to each and every one of us, with the help of God and each other, to make sure good things happen too.