

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"And Moses said to the people, 'Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.'"

(Exodus 14: 13-14)

The above Bible passage takes place after the Israelites, being led by Moses, finally left Egypt after many years of slavery in that land. Soon after their departure from Egypt, they find themselves at the shore of the Red Sea. At the same time, they see that the Egyptians are in pursuit of them. They have the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them. And what does Moses tell them to do? He tells them to stay calm and watch what God is about to do!

You get the picture, right? The Red Sea in front of them ... the Egyptians behind them. So, which enemy do you take on? Do you wade into the Sea with the idea of swimming to the other side? Many would no doubt drown, and all of their possessions would be lost. Or do you turn around and fight a losing battle against the Egyptians? Neither choice seems favorable. So, Moses instructs the people to "stay calm." He says, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today."

And the result of letting God be God was one of the greatest miracles of the Bible. God takes care of both "enemies" at the same time. He splits the sea so that the Israelites may cross on dry ground. And when the Egyptians attempt to follow them, God allows the waters to return to normal, and the Egyptians are drowned.

Today we find ourselves caught between two threatening situations. A pandemic is right in front of our eyes. A significant recession, if not a depression, is pursuing us from behind. What is the answer? Do we take our chances with the pandemic by opening up the economy? Do we pay more attention to the threat of the virus or do we risk people's health in an effort to save the economy? Tough choice!

If only we had Moses here to tell us what to do! If he were here, I'm thinking he would say something similar to what he told the Israelites that day at the Red Sea: "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today ... The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

This is not to say that the American people and our nation's leaders should stop using the brains that God has given them. Obviously, stay the course on the search for a vaccine as well as effective treatment strategies. And, by all means, be wise in the steps to take in reopening the economy. But, on a personal level, whatever your situation is, the words of Moses are still great words to live by: "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." In other words, you are not in this alone. We are not solely dependent on the government or the medical world to get us out from between "a rock and a hard place." God is fighting for us! He is fighting for you!

God knows your personal circumstances during this global crisis. He knows if you are physically vulnerable. He knows if you are fighting loneliness. He knows if you are becoming financially threatened at this time. And He is fighting for you. Actually, it's not much of a fight for God. If He can split a sea, He can handle our problems as well. And so we "have only to be silent." In other words, we can wait with confident anticipation. What will God do? We just need to wait and see. But we know that He will not leave us in this dilemma. We are precious to Him.

We have been bought at a price – the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. We are His valuable possession. You matter to God!

He will see His people through this crisis. "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today."

God's peace!
Pastor Jim