

Powerless, Helpless, Yet Hopeful Անզօր, Անկարող, Բայց Յուսալից

John 14:27

2 Chronicles 20

We are living a time of crisis. Corona virus brought the world to its “knees.” Just a few months ago we did not imagine such **an invisible enemy** would invade our lives. It affected our health, it affected our jobs which meaning our economy, and affected our sociological behavior. We are told to stay home and practice social distancing.

You know me; to stay home is a big “punishment” to me personally. I love humans and interaction.

God loves us, and He sent his Son so that we will be saved from sin, which isolates us from God and each other. God is a God of relationship. He loves His family called the church. Christ is the head of the church, and we are the body.

How are we going to be a body of Christ, without being next to each other? Is it possible? Yes, it is possible. In fact, this situation teaches the saying which I read: **“With church shutting doors across America, (or the world), it is time for us to show that the church has never been about the building.”**

How accurate is this quotation! Let me turn to the Word of God; this is what God put on my heart to share with you.

There is fear all over us. There is uncertainty all over us. There is panic in stores; the anxiety level is high. Sadness within our hearts...

In the Word of God we see so many situations where danger comes and knocks the door of the cities, homes, and individuals. They are not necessarily viruses; there are other “enemies” which can destroy the peace.

We read in 2 Chronicles 17-20 about **king Jehoshaphat**. He was a good king who had a relationship with God. He was not the perfect king. Although the

danger he was facing was not same as our silent enemy called corona virus, yet, we can learn a lot from the attitude. He was facing the Moabite enemies and their allies who were invading his country. **A vast army is coming against you (NIV) A great multitude is coming against you (ESV).**

-The king was terrified:

Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. (20:3,4 ESV)

-He Prayed TOGETHER in fasting

The king assembled the people of Judah; they came from all cities of Judah to pray together.

I know I cannot ask you to come together in person, but we can pray together wherever we are. In our homes, we can pray together. We will cry out to God to be our refuge, our rock, and our healer.

-Acknowledge who God is

O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. (20:6 ESV)

The king was afraid from the large numbers of invaders. He felt it was an impossible situation. Helpless...

For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” (20:12 ESV)

Those words are comforting words to me. God did come and the enemy was defeated.

I look around, and I see anxiety and fear in people. I get it. This situation is new to us. We are not used to shortage. We are not used to people saying to us: You need to stay at home. Schools and colleges are closed.

Graduation ceremonies are canceled. We are not used for this. We are in a new situation.

What are my comforting words to you?

1. Spend time in prayer and reading God's Word.

I have often encouraged you to pray and read His Word. We said we didn't have time. Well now, we have all the time we want. Many are doing creative things. There are resources online. Our Bible study leaders are continuing to be in touch with the groups providing resources to read and pray and contemplate on the Word of God.

Let us pray for those who are struggling with the infection.

Let us pray also for the scientists who are working to find solutions for this situation.

Let us pray for the nurses and doctors and all the medical personnel who are working on the frontline.

Let us pray for our President and our government for wisdom and guidance.

Let us pray for the first responders, the firefighters...

Let us be THNKFUL in all circumstances.

Jehoshaphat asked the army to worship and be thankful.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever." (2 Chron. 20:21 ESV)

Every day Sevan and I will pray at 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. I am calling your to join us in your place, to prayer to God to make His presence known in the midst of our crisis.

2. Let not your hearts be troubled; fear not:

I read from Gospel of John chapter 14:

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
(14:1 ESV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (14:27 ESV)

Jesus was facing Jerusalem when he said those words. He knew that He would go to Calvary and the disciples would be confused and would lose hope. So he kept saying, "Let not your hearts be troubled. I give you an inner peace that beyond human understanding."

Paul who faced all kinds of dangers and trials wrote:

"He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again." (2 Cor. 1:10 ESV)

Fear is an emotion very difficult to control. Here is what I suggest when it hits you. Read these verses from Hebrews:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear;

what can man do to me?" (Heb 13:5b,6 ESV)

3. Take care of others

I mentioned this last Sunday:

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippines 2:4 ESV)

Call people, see how are they doing. Think about the needs of others. Take care of the weak ones. Use the social media, if you are old school use the phone, land line.

Jehoshaphat in his prayer said:

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. Helpless, yet with hope:

We read in Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us have a safe week. Trust God, turn to Him, turn your eyes towards Him. He is our hope and refuge. Helpless and powerless, yet “joyful in hope.”

Amen