NO REST

God desires us to give Him no rest until He accomplishes that which He has promised us.

KEY POINTS

- The Scripture text taken from Isaiah 62 was written to and about the people of Israel. Though it was a prophecy directed to them, there are principles contained within it that we can grab hold of today.
- "You who remind the Lord…." When we read this, we have to understand that "reminding" can't really be about us reminding God of something He has forgotten. Let's not think for a moment that God ever forgets anything.
- Really, when we say we are reminding Him, we are showing God *we* remember what He has said. *We* have it in our minds and *we* are demonstrating our understanding of: "You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves" (Is. 62:6).
- But just to make it even stronger, He adds in the next verse, "And give Him no rest." For how long?
- "…Until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (v7).
- We want to ensure that we give God no rest until He does what He says He is going to do.
- Let's just think about how this works. In Genesis 32:24-32, we read about a man by the name of Jacob, who wasn't really a good guy. He was a con artist, a thief, a liar. He had run away from home because he had stolen his brother's birthright and his blessing.
- Now Jacob had reached the point in his life where he was going back home to meet with his older brother, Esau. To say he was scared is an understatement.
- While Jacob was at Peniel, the scripture tells us that there was a man who wrestled with him until daybreak.
- As this interaction was taking place, Jacob recognized he was dealing with God, and as they wrestled, God touched his thigh—just simply touched his hip—and Jacob's hip came out of joint (Gen. 32:25).
- God is all powerful. If God decides He does not want to deal with something, it's gone.
- So, if God wanted to destroy Jacob, it wouldn't have taken more than a thought. But the Lord is trying to tell us something here. This story is meant to give us a lesson. As God said in Isaiah 62:
  "I want you to remind me of the things I have said. I want you to do this constantly and take no rest. I want you to understand that I am going to accomplish this. You just keep at me. You just keep bringing this up *until*. Until I give you what I said I would do. Until the promise I made comes to pass."
- So, let's change the title of our message:

KEY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 62:6-7 NASB

NO REST UNTIL…

- Child of God, this is no time to take a break.
- Jacob did not rest when he wrestled with the Lord all night. Instead he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Gen. 32:26). He held on, and it was the Lord Himself who made it so Jacob could not support himself in the way he needed.
- Do you know that God sometimes weakens us in the flesh? This is so that we will grab hold of whatever we have in the Spirit and say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15).
- So, hold on! Trust Him even though you may be weak in the body. This hope we have goes beyond our human strength. It goes beyond our human power. It even goes beyond the grave, Child of God.
- When the Lord says, "Come, don't give Me any rest," He simply wants to see how important your request really is to you.
- And if you were going to quit as soon as a little obstruction, a little hurdle, comes your way, then clearly it wasn't something you really want and desire.
- Can you take this word from the Lord today and pray an "until" prayer? Can you say, "Lord, I'm going to remind You until…"?
- "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

REFLECTION TOOLS

1. When it comes to acquiring a particular want (whether an attribute or something physical), does it come easily or does time and effort have to be put into it? Think of examples of instances you know of and the lengths one had to go to achieve their goal.
2. Are you the type to "wrestle" with God for a certain need, or the type who throws in the towel? What would propel a person to do one or the other?
3. Step boldly to the throne of grace. Petition God and give Him no rest.

Prayer Time

It's me again, Lord. And I promise you that I'm not letting go until I get my blessing…my anointing…my healing…my (fill in the blank).

L.G. ice-Breaker: Do you classify yourself as having a long/short attention span? What was the longest/shortest amount of time you spent on something?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS