

HE IS HERE

"...He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5b)

KEY POINTS

- ❖ An older adult told a reporter that for over a year she (and many others in long-term care) hasn't been able to walk outside her building or go to the dining hall to eat with other residents. Locked in: no family visits, interaction with friends, nor any timetable for when things will change. This woman is incredibly lonely and feels like she is in solitary confinement.
- ❖ Many are experiencing incredible loneliness right now in their own homes with family all around. No one talks to another...and if it *does* happen, old misunderstandings and disagreements surface. So everyone has retreated to own their space with their things, and there is no love, no companionship. Just a lonely bunch of people stuck in the same house.
- ❖ Right now, you might be praying as David did in Psalm 25:16-17 (NIV): "Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish."
- ❖ Job also got to such a low place that he said, "I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning" (Job 7:16 NIV).
- ❖ in Genesis 16 we meet Hagar, the servant of Sarai, Abram's wife. She had no rights to accept or decline when Sarai gave her into the arms of Abram, so that, according to the custom of the day, she could bear a child "on behalf" of Sarai.
- ❖ When Hagar conceived, she showed her disdain for Sarai. Whether she felt superior to Sarai or just anger at the position in which she had been placed, we don't know. We do know that Sarai responded by mistreating her, and so Hagar ran away.
- ❖ We often don't understand the reasons why God says and does certain things. The Angel of the Lord met Hagar as she was running from Sarai and sent her right back to the abusive, dysfunctional situation.
- ❖ But He sent her back with a clear word of prophecy and hope for her future and the future of her son. She was told to name her son *Ishmael*, which means: "*God hears.*" And after her encounter with the Angel, Hagar coined her own personal name for God, which was *El Roi*, which means, "*You are the God who Sees.*" (See Gen. 16:11,13.) That's good news!
- ❖ Make it personal: "God sees *me!*" "God hears *me!*"
- ❖ Psalm 38 records David crying out to God, acknowledging his sins and repenting. This psalm gives us hope and assurance that we can come running to Him even when we do wrong.
- ❖ Young and old, the present pandemic has given us a heightened awareness of the fragility of this treasure we call "life." Most of us know someone who has been very negatively impacted by COVID 19.
- ❖ And when some passed away, we couldn't honour them by attending their funerals in person, paying

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 16; 21:8-21; Job 7:16; Psalm 25:16-17; 38:3-5, 15, 18, 21-22; 39:4-5, 7; 23:4; Genesis 29:31-35; Matthew 26:36-46; 28:20b; Luke 22:34; Hebrews 13:5b

our last respects, being there to support our bereaved friends and loved ones.

- ❖ David also said to the Lord in Psalm 39:4-5, 7: LORD, make me to know my end, and...the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. ⁵ Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah ⁷And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You."
- ❖ It is a real comfort to be reminded that our lives today aren't really any different than the lives of our forefathers. We go through the very same things, and God has always been a constant source of hope.
- ❖ You may be feeling lonely, unloved, dejected, unappreciated – even invisible. Read about Leah in Genesis 29:31-35 – how she learned to shift her focus and to praise the LORD.
- ❖ Matthew 26 is a good place to meditate on the life of Jesus and see that He understands your loneliness. He's experienced it just as you have! Luke 4 details His 40 days in the wilderness with no food and no support.
- ❖ He was all alone in a weakened physical condition, fighting every temptation the devil could throw at Him. All He had to get Him through His ordeal was the word of God.
- ❖ And yes, we need to immerse ourselves in the word of God on a consistent basis. To allow it to program our minds toward God's love, understanding, provision and constant care for us, His dear children, and to help us through times of loneliness and isolation.
- ❖ Sometimes we can't count on our dearest friends to be there for us when we need them the most, but the Lord will send us the help we need. If He needs to send an angel from heaven, He'll do it.
- ❖ "He *Himself* has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Heb. 13:5b, italics added).
- ❖ He will always be there!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share scriptural promises and examples as you discuss and meditate on these concepts: He hears. He sees. He knows. He cares. *He is here.*

PRAYER TIME

Lord, whether I see You, hear You, or feel Your presence, I *know* that You are with me. Thank You!

Start-up: What do you most like/dislike about being alone for an extended period of time (a few hours/a few days)?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

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

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: Foreign missionaries: anointing to preach the gospel, anointing to lead and empower national workers, family unity, personal protection



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

You are here, You're moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, You're working in this place
I worship You, I worship You

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You

[Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working]

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 16, 2021



2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"Teach... them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."
Matthew 28:20 NKJV

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