I Shall Not Be Shaken

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Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. 2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." 3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. 4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. 7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. 8 I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. 10 For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. 11 You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16)

1. Are We Shaken?

It has been one month of social distancing. How has your past month been? While we wait to return to normal, many people are at risk for mental and emotional stress. Many mental health experts say that a problem coming from our current situation is the greater sense of isolation.

Our sense of productivity or purpose may have also decreased. Are we the only people to go through this in human history? When we read the Bible, we find many people who have experienced times of great challenge. David was one of them. How did he overcome his crisis?

2. Psalm 16

Psalm 16 is known as one of the best Psalms written by David. Although Psalm 16 is known as a psalm of confidence, this psalm may have been written when David faced great danger in the wilderness or opposition in his life. Although he says that he will not be shaken, David's condition at the time would have been in great crisis, similar to our situation today.

In verse 1, David says, "***Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge***." This verse summarizes Psalm 16. David develops why he takes refuge in the Lord. David states his faith in verse 2: "***You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you***." The Message Bible says, "***without you, nothing makes sense***." My own interpretation of the passage is "***without you my life is meaningless***."

In verses 3 & 4, David says that he will have nothing to do with the counterfeit gods to whom many pour out their blood of sacrifices. In verses 5

and the following, he praises the Lord for the goodly heritage. David declares, "***I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure****."* Although David was in trouble, his heart was glad. David found the secret to joy. He tells us not to be shaken and instead to feel joy despite our current situations.

How could David rejoice and find rest in the face of crisis? It is because David believed God would not allow him to suffer an untimely death or violence. David was assured that the Lord would preserve his life in the face of death. David trusted in the Lord that God would neither abandon him to the grave nor let him see decay. He was comforted in the fact that God would let David know the path of life and the eternal pleasures at God's right hand. His current crisis was the opportunity for David to experience God's presence and God's almighty power.

3. Peter and Paul

What about the case of the disciples of Jesus? When Jesus was arrested and crucified on the cross, the disciples were greatly shaken. When they decided to follow Jesus, the disciples never thought about the death of their Messiah. They assumed that the Messiah would be with the disciples always and reign forever. No disciple expected that the Messiah would die, rise again, and leave them ascending to heaven. Although the risen Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection, life without Jesus would not be easy for the disciples. They were filled with confusion and fear.

After Jesus' ascension the disciples were praying for ten days. When the Pentecost came, the disciples experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Their sense of loneliness and fear disappeared, and the disciples were filled with joy and passion for sharing the good news of the resurrection of Jesus.

In Acts 2:25-32, at his first sermon, Peter tells the people in Jerusalem about the resurrection of Jesus by quoting from Psalm 16. Peter says that David was not writing about himself, because David died and was buried. Instead, David was writing about the Messiah who would be resurrected.

Another person quoted from Psalm 16 to preach the good news of the resurrection of Jesus. Do you know who he was? He was Paul. In Acts 13:34-35, Paul said during his first missionary journey. "***As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, … 'You will not let your Holy One experience corruption***.'

Paul declared that the resurrection of Jesus had been promised by the Lord in Psalm 16. Peter and Paul interpreted the words of David as the prophecy of the resurrection of Jesus. Preservation from the decaying grave

for David would mean God's deliverance from death. But for Jesus it was interpreted as a meaning of the resurrection from death. Peter and Paul's interpretation of Psalm 16 changed the perspective of the people in the early church. Although Peter and Paul were persecuted for preaching the good news of the resurrection of Jesus, they were not afraid of dying at all. They lived their lives to preach the gospel of the resurrection of Jesus.

How did Peter and Paul believe that the Psalm 16 talked about the resurrection of Jesus? Psalm 16 is David's personal statement of faith. Then how did Peter and Paul cite Psalm 16 when talking about Jesus' resurrection? What made them interpret Psalm 16 as the prophecy of the resurrection of Jesus?

The Bible does not tell us the exact reason. We can interpret this as the result of the Holy Spirit opening the eyes of Peter and Paul to see the passage with God's perspective.

4. Do People Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus?

Did many people in the time of the early church believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Of course not. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul asks, "***if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?*** (verse 12) In Paul's time, many people did not believe that a person could be resurrected after death.

What about today? Do people believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Many people would say the resurrection is "nonsense." They would say that rising from the dead is impossible. If we see the resurrection of Jesus from human beings' perspective, it can't make sense. However, if we see Jesus' resurrection from God's perspective, nothing is impossible. That' why Paul says, "***I can do everything through him who gives me strength***" (Philippians 4:13). The creator can do anything God wants. The resurrection of Jesus was possible because God has risen him from the dead. That's why the resurrection of Jesus should be understood from God's eyes.

5. Conclusion

Why is believing in the resurrection of Jesus important? It is because when we praise the Lord for what God has done for us and trust in Him, nothing can shake us, and we can rest in any circumstances and rejoice in the Lord.

When David trusted in the Lord, he was able to overcome his crisis. He believed that God was in control and his life was in God's hands. When he relied on the Lord completely, David could rest and rejoice in the Lord.

When Jesus was crucified, the disciples were shaken. They were full of fear and their hope of independence and the establishment of God's kingdom

disappeared. However, after Jesus appeared to the disciples, they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The disciples' fears were gone, and they became the witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

6. Application

Many people may find themselves shaken during our physical distancing. Roughly 40,000 people have lost their lives because of the virus. How can we overcome our current situation, rejoice, and comfort those who have lost loved ones?

As we shared last Sunday, there is no Christianity and no church without the conviction of the resurrection of Jesus. The tradition of worship on Sunday was to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. We worship the Lord each Sunday and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Many people suggest ideas how to deal with our current situations. However, believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ would help us the most to overcome our current crisis. Because the risen Lord is at our right hand and the almighty God would take care of us forever, we shall not be shaken. Amen.

I am not a singer like Jen, Erin, Cheryl and other choir members. But would you allow me to sing a hymn # 374, "Standing on the Promises."

Prayer before sermon

Guiding God,
send your Holy Spirit upon your Word
that it may serve to show us the path of life
and lead us into your presence
where there is fullness of joy. **Amen.**