
Sermon Notes

April 26, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Our God Reigns: Strength for the Weary

Isaiah 40:27-31

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

A Lament

- ❖ *Why?????*
 - why is God doing this?
 - why is this happening to me?
- ❖ Examples: Job, Jeremiah, Elijah, Jesus
- ❖ God sometimes uses desolation & destruction to seize our attention and redirect our hearts & lives back to Himself

A Midcourse Correction

- ❖ A midcourse correction may be long and painful, but it is not a sign that God has let go of you
- ❖ If anything, a midcourse correction serves to remind us that God is holding onto us
 - God promises to never leave us or forsake us

A Wake-up Call

- ❖ *Have you not known? Have you not heard?*
 - like the closing argument in a court of law
 - the case has been made and is now sent on to the jury
- ❖ Verse 28 is a summary of the evidence presented in vv. 12-26
 - the incomparable nature of God
 - God is: everlasting, powerful, sovereign, all wise...
 - there are no "loose ends" or uncontrollable circumstances that overtax God
 - these facts of evidence are not in dispute or up for debate

- ❖ We need this wake-up call as much as Israel did
 - won't the God who sustains the universe by His power sustain us as well?
 - Isaiah 59:1, Psalm 55:22

A Wonderful Gift

- ❖ God promises to increase the strength of the weary and to renew the strength of those who wait on Him
 - "I'm tired"! (40:31)
 - we get weary, we wear down, we wear out, but God doesn't
- ❖ God delights to strengthen and support His people in their time of need
 - before we "cash in" on this promise, we need to know and to admit our need
 - ***wait for the LORD***
 - eager anticipation
 - picture of a hunter waiting for his prey
 - the Lord blesses patient, praying believers with strength in their trials

- ❖ The LORD will ***renew*** our strength
 - He exchanges what is old and worn out for that which is new and fresh
 - three vivid illustrations of how God will do this
 - ***mount up with wings like eagles*** (Exodus 19:4)
 - ***run and not be weary***
 - ***walk and not faint***
- ❖ Scriptures that undergird and support these promises (Psalm 42:5, 40:1-3; Romans 8:31-32; Isaiah 41:9-10, Matthew 11:28-30)

Personal Application

1. What is occurring in your life at this time that causes you to ask God the question: "Why"?
2. Is there anything about those circumstances that might lead you to believe that God is leading you through a midcourse correction or issuing you a wake-up call?
3. How are you currently responding to those opportunities? Is there anything about your attitude or response to those opportunities that needs to change? Are you "looking up" as you continue to move forward? Are you "waiting on the LORD" or pushing ahead in your own strength?
4. How will you let the hope and assurance of the wonderful gifts God promises in these verses sustain you as you wait on the LORD?