

Journey With Hope Series

Resting In The Shepherd Of Our Souls

1 Peter 5

Wednesday, May 28, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

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Well, it's obvious that a..., for Connie, for me our lives are greatly blessed and enriched by our children. Joseph and Mary Elizabeth, we have our own nativity, Joseph and Mary goin together. [pause for slight congregation laughter] And a..., I have to admit as a dad I like just about everything about that, that song, except it wasn't much fun at 13 hearing her talk about the bride and the groom, but a..., spiritually that day is coming when we will see Christ and as the heavenly bride a..., with Jesus we will be there in the wedding...in the marriage supper of the Lamb and so I thank God for that and just for the joy of a... having Lizzie be a part of this service tonight. I also just need to take a minute and just say a great big thank you a... to Rick, to our vocalists, to our instrumentalists, to the entire Connection music and praise team, they have given so many hours and done such an incredible job [pause for applause] and a..., I thank God for you guys. It's been a great joy and a lot of fun to work together since last August. We'll be back together this coming August and a..., we are very excited about just the a..., the growth and the energy and the ministry that has been occurring as a result of our Connection Service on Wednesday evenings and a..., we've learned a lot of things along the way and we'll be looking forward to starting back up on August the 20th in the fall as we resume all of our a..., regular Wednesday evening activities at that point but in addition we're gonna have this new a..., part of the facility open. We're gonna have food service available on Wednesday evenings. We're gonna have a coffee shop, we're gonna have the commons area. It's going to be absolutely incredible a..., to see what's gonna happen on this campus on Wednesday evenings and I hope right now you'll just mark that day and get the date blocked out in the fall and that you'll invite as many friends as possible to come and to be a part of this time and of this gathering. But of course, all of the music tonight and all of the a..., preparation has been to bring us to this time, to prepare us to come to the table of our Lord. We've been talking a..., all of this year about journeying with hope and obviously the greatest hope that we have and that we embrace is the hope that is spoken of in the words of the song:

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name.*

And the very opening message that we brought out of the book of 1st Peter was a message about the precious blood of Christ and how that we live in the red as Christians. Living in the red is not a good thing in business but it is what the Christian life is all about, for I will ever be indebted to the Savior for what He has done for me. He has canceled the debt of my sin and now the debt of my heart is a debt of love that I owe to Him for His grace, His mercy and His love and tonight we come to give attention and focus to the table and preparing our hearts. Of course, many times when we gather at this table and when we come to this moment a..., it's common for those of us in ministry to turn to a portion of Scripture found in 1st Corinthians chapter 11. You may want to turn there tonight because it a..., really is the context and the background of preparation for the Lord's Supper. And while these words may be familiar, my prayer tonight is that in a fresh and in a new way that what these words imply would a..., speak to your heart and would challenge you. Here in 1st Corinthians 11 Paul is giving specific instruction as to how the church is to administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Of course, the Lord Jesus Himself broke the bread and gave the cup and shared it with His disciples there in the Upper Room a..., just before He went ~~to the cruci...~~ to the Cross and to His crucifixion. He took the Passover, which had been the tradition of the Jew and all of the history of the Passover and the picture of the Passover, but He brought the new covenant to demonstrate that Christ had been the image of the Passover and He, our Passover Lamb was to be sacrificed for us. So Paul giving specific instructions here in 1st Corinthians chapter 11, beginning in verse 23 a..., says this:

²³For I receive from the Lord that which I also deliver to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this...

Would you say the rest of it with me?

.....in remembrance of Me." ²⁵And in the same manner he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

And then He says in verse 28:

²⁸But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Obviously a stern warning; some instructions about what we are doing with the bread and with the cup and then a warning. Now the Bible doesn't say let a man be worthy because not one of us is ever worthy to come to this table. The only one who makes us worthy is Jesus and that's the whole picture of this supper, is what Christ has done for us. But we can come to this table in an unworthy manner and that is to make this a ritual, to

make this a ceremony, to make this, as though it were, a means of gaining spiritual credit with God and God will have none of it because there's nothing that we can do to add to what Christ has done for us and the only way that you come unworthily to this table is to come having failed to bow the knee to Jesus Christ. You see I can only come because of Christ, but I come in confidence because of Christ and when I bow my knee and confess Him as Savior and Lord then I am able to come with a surrendered life and with a submitted heart to this place to this table to seek the Lord. So these instructions are provided for us in 1st Corinthians 11. But in much the same way that we read instructions from Paul given to the church in Corinth to help them with the service so it is that we have instructions from Peter in the final portion of the Scripture that we've been studying all year and so now I want you to go back over to 1st Peter chapter 5 for just a moment because in the last chapter of the book 1st Peter, Peter is simply giving instructions to the church and he begins by talking about the need for oversight in the church and how God has provided and that God has an order and God has a plan for the church and how the church is to be led and it's very clear in Scripture, 1st Peter chapter 5 in verse 1 says:

¹The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ²Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³not as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

The Bible says that God has established pastors, shepherds who are to lead the flock of God and God has established the office of the pastor and it is to be honored and it is to be esteemed and it is to be seen in light of it's function in Scripture as providing oversight to the church and I can't be this close and not just say God has given us an incredible overseer at Prestonwood Baptist Church. [applause] When I think of the gift of our pastor I think of the incredible gift of oversight; vision, yes, to embrace the future but wisdom and discernment to lead the church. And the Bible says that the, that the shepherd is to function in the office that God has placed him. But then he reminds us, all of us, verse 4:

That when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of glory that does not fade away.

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd. Anyone else is an under shepherd to the Lord Jesus Christ. We do what we do in ministry to honor the name of Jesus Christ, but He is the Chief Shepherd, He is the Shepherd of our souls and He is the One who leads us and who guides us, who comforts us, who protects us, who defends us, who matures us and who fulfills His promise to us. It's all about Jesus and what Jesus has done for us. But after he gives instruction about the oversight of the church Peter concludes this letter by outlining, as though it were, some specific issues, some specific attitudes, some specific areas that every Christian needs to be concerned about day in and day out as we seek to be followers of Jesus

Christ. Living in this world in which we live, we need to be lead and we need to be lead under the authority and the ministry of a local church, but of course, we need to be lead by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by the light of the Word of God. And so given that instruction we now begin to read in chapter 5 and verse 5:

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and clothed and in the humility,...

We've talked before, a whole message about submission and the attitude of submission in the Christian life here in 1st Peter. But here's where he begins to just sort of give us the bullet points. He begins to outline the strategy for living and walking with Christ and here's what he says:

...“God resists the proud, But He gives grace to the humble.”⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time,⁷casting all your care upon Him, because He cares for you.⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he may devour.⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.¹⁰But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you've suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.¹¹To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

And all the people said.

Amen.

It's all about following Christ. But when you take the instruction of Paul:

“...do this in remembrance of Me.”

And you take these closing instructions of Peter to those believers who were scattered and struggling and suffering and you begin to think about, what is it that Jesus wants me to remember, every time I come to this table, if He said, *“Do this in remembrance of Me.”* What am I to remember? What am I to do? How am I to examine myself and to prepare myself for this table? Well I believe there is an outline, a series of objectives that God would give us tonight as we step to the table.

Number One: He says, “Remember Me with humility.” If I'm going to do this in remembrance of Jesus, I must remember the Lord Jesus Christ in humility because God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. God wants you to humble yourself when you come to this table to let pride and self be poured out. That's why the only way that we can ever come is first and foremost to confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The way you become a Christian is by seeing your sin and humbling yourself before God, not trying to approve yourself, not trying to establish righteousness in yourself, but simply to say Lord there is nothing I can bring to You, I am a sinner, I

need to be saved. Salvation begins with humility and bowing the knee and confessing our need for Jesus Christ. But that's how we live the Christian life. We live the Christian life in humility day by day humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and we are reminded that in this life the suffering and the struggles and the trials that we have are all a part of developing and maintaining humility in our hearts and lives. One of my favorite mentors and one of a..., my great friendships in ministry has been that with a man by the name of Dr. George Sweeting, who was at one time the President of the Movi...Moody Bible Institute, the Chancellor of that institution today and he wrote these words. He said:

"The ordinances of the Christian church remind us of the importance of suffering in the Christian life. In baptism we pledge to live a pattern of dying to self and living to Christ. In the Lord's Supper we see the body and blood of the Lord Jesus. The Christian life involves suffering. A suffering free Christianity is a hoax and does not square with the New Testament."

When I come to this table, I come with hardships, I come with heartaches, I come with struggles, but when I come I remember to be humble before the Lord and in humility to seek the Lord that I may prove His strength and His sufficiency in my life. Scripture says in Philippians 2:

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation,...

And then he...the Bible goes on to say

...He humbled himself and became ob...obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross.

REMEMBER ME IN HUMILITY.

There's something else that we learn in this instruction tonight and that is when we come to the table we are reminded that we are to remember Christ,

REMEMBER ME WITH DEPENDENCY.

This is my body which is broken for you. This is a cup of a new covenant and when I come here tonight I remember again how dependent I am upon God day by day. In fact for this reason he says here in 1st Peter chapter 5 in verse 7:

casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.

Let that get into your heart tonight. He cares for you. You! We're not just talkin about the whole world, talkin about you. He cares for you and when Jesus says, "*You remember Me*" He's tryin to help us to remember that He cares for each and everyone of us. And so when we come to this table

tonight we remember Him in humility, but we are to remember Christ in dependency and to realize that He cares and that as I come to this table I unload all of the strife and the struggles, the sins and the failures of my life and I remember that He is an all sufficient Savior and whatever the care, He cares for Me.

There's something else that the Scripture tells us here in this instruction in Peter and that is not only in the words of Jesus, Remember Me with humility and remember Me with dependency but...

REMEMBER ME, REMEMBER ME IN ADVERSITY.

Verse 8 and 9:

'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone whom he may devour. 'Resist him, stand fast in the faith, knowing that these sufferings and these same experience are being shared by brothers in the world.

The Christian life is filled with adversity because we have a wicked adversary who is sneaking and who is prowling and who is looking for someone whom he may devour and he wants to devour you and there is only One who has defeated him, His name is Jesus. In Matthew chapter 4 we read the incredible account of the temptation of Christ and how on 3 occasions Satan himself came and appeared to Jesus in the wilderness and tested Him and tempted Him. But each time Jesus a..., brought him to the defeat with the power of the Word of God and so it is for you and for me as we come to this table tonight, we live in a world filled with adversary and with strife and struggle because of our adversary, the Devil. But we come near to the table, near to the place to remember the covenant of Christ and Jesus will give us victory. Whatever the victory, whatever the struggle remember Me in adversity. There's a battle, there's a challenge, there's a conflict and it's impossible to come to this place and become so sanctimonious that we are disconnected from that conflict, but in this moment by faith we defeat our enemy because in Jesus we have victory. And then Jesus says:

"Remember Me"

And if we take the instruction that Peter provides here I believe it is the 4th and the final of the ways in which we are to remember and that is:

REMEMBER ME IN ETERNITY.

In eternity, look at what the Bible says here in verse 10:

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you've suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You have an eternal destiny and an eternal purpose in the plan of God and

while this life is filled with conflict and strife and suffering, there is a promise that we are always reminded of every time we come to this table. Do you remember what Jesus said?

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you do show the Lord's death until..."

What? Until He comes, there's coming a day when eternity will be today, when eternity will be reality for you and for me. It is real, but it will be the ultimate reality. We will not be bound and living in this life and in the flesh and in all the things that are here but we will be alive in Christ and when Jesus says;

"Remember Me"

It's as though He's saying remember Me in eternity, remember that as you hold these elements that I came, that I fulfilled and completed this covenant and that I am coming again for you and one day you will see My dominion and you will see my power and you will share my glory in the place that I've prepared for you. That's what it's all gonna be about and that all being true we rest in the Shepherd of our souls. He is the Chief Shepherd who shall appear, who will give rewards and so until that day when we see the Lord Jesus Christ we simply live life with humility, with dependency, through adversity, looking to eternity and in all these things we're remembering Jesus because He is the Shepherd who leads us all the way.

In the early 1800's a young woman was born who within the first 6 months of her life was blind. Her is known in hymnals across the world, Fanny Crosby and Fanny Crosby wrote a number of hymns out of the darkness and the suffering of her life. But is there was anyone who needed to know what it was to be led in life, it was someone who had experienced life with blindness. Everything for her was a point of vulnerability and of jeopardy any time she moved because she was so dependent upon others. But she penned the words to a song that I think speak to all of our hearts and tonight as we think about resting in the Shepherd of our souls and, and coming to the end of what's been a study that we've called the *Journey of Hope* I just wanna remind you that this hope that we've talked about is not just something that we think about in church and take notes on in a message and talk about from time to time it's the day to day reality of following Christ. Here's what she said:

*All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercies,
Who thru life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know what-ere befall me,
Jesus do-eth all things well;*

*All the way my Savior leads me;
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread:
Tho my weary steps may falter,
And my soul a-thirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! A spring of joy I see;*

*All the way my Savior leads me;
Oh, the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
In my Father's house above:
When my spirit cloth'd immortal,
Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song thru endless ages:
Jesus led me all the way.*

You can journey with hope in Jesus Christ.