

**AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION, SUNDAY JAN. 27,2019**

**SERMON: GOD'S GOODNESS RESTORES YOU**

**Texts: Isaiah 53:5-12 p. 793 & Psalm 23:1-3 p. 592**

“The Lord is MY Shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. **He restores my soul.**”

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We have gathered from our different places to worship here.

People: How good it is to worship together in unity!

Leader: We come from our different occupations, our diverse activities.

People: How good it is to worship together in unity!

Leader: We come as unique individuals, bound together in the love of Christ.

People: How good it is to worship together in unity!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We confess without reservation that our dialogue with you, O God, is not really a dialogue. Too often, we ask without listening, complain without offering thanksgiving. We pray, and cannot understand why we get no response. Awaken us to wonder: If you called, would we answer? Or would you get a busy signal? Would you leave a message, and get no answer in return? We confess anew our impatience and our unwillingness to sit in the holy stillness of your presence. Forgive us, loving God. Thank you for offer of restoration. In this minute of silence, let us be still and listen to what you would say to us this day.

**MITCH PASTORAL PRAYER**

Holy God, the way of the cross was a scandal 2,000 years ago, and it is no less a scandal today. The cross calls us to lives of humility in a world where pride, arrogance and self-promotion are seen as virtues. The cross proclaims peace in the midst of war, violence and abuse. It pleads for justice, assailing the disparities between rich and poor, sick and well, hungry and full, sheltered and homeless that we excuse as the status quo. The cross bleeds love and cries mercy, and it asks us to live -- and to die -- with the same love and mercy of Christ. Enable us, Lord, by your power and grace, to give ourselves fully to what the cross asks of us. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

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*Intro: My soul is the part of me that thinks, chooses, and feels.*

**PART 1: THREE ACTIONS THAT DAMAGES YOUR SOUL?**

**1. UNADDRESSED GRUDGES**

“To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.” Job 5:2 (GNT)

“You are only hurting yourself with your anger.” Job 18:4 (GNT)

**2. UNCONFESSED GUILT.**

“My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear... I'm bowed down and brought low; all day long I go about mourning.” Psalm 38:4,6

“The Lord gave us a mind and a conscience; we can't hide from ourselves.” Prov. 20:27

**3. UNPROCESSED GRIEF**

“Lord, have mercy, because I am in misery. My eyes are weak from so much crying, and my whole being is tired from grief.” Psalm 31:9 (NCV)

**PART 2. HOW DOES JESUS RESTORE YOU?**

**1. JESUS TURNS MY HURTS INTO HOLINESS.**

“God protects me like a strong, walled city, and he loves me. He is my defender and my savior, my shield and my protection.” Psalm 144:2

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NIV)

**2. JESUS TAKES MY SINS ON HIMSELF.**

“He was wounded and crushed for OUR SINS. He was beaten and took OUR PUNISHMENT so that WE might have peace. And through his wounds, OUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.” Isaiah 53:5-6

### **3. JESUS FEELS MY GRIEF AND HEALS MY HEART.**

“He was despised and rejected by others. He was a man of sorrows, who endured much pain and suffering; He experienced deep grief but we ignored him and looked the other way. He was hated and we did not care. Yet it was OUR weaknesses that he was carrying and it was OUR sorrows that weighed him down.” Isaiah 53:3-4

## **CONCLUSION: THREE FAITHFUL RESPONDS?**

### **1. TRUST THE GOOD SHEPHERD TO FORGIVE MY SINS.**

“All of us have sinned... yet God declares us ‘not guilty’ IF we trust in Jesus Christ, who in MERCY FREELY TAKES AWAY OUR SINS.” ROMANS 3:23-24

### **2. RELEASE MY OFFENDERS AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.**

“Get rid of all bitterness... forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31-32

“Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said He will repay those who deserve it.” Romans 12:19 (LB)

### **3. I TEAM UP WITH JESUS TO CARRY MY LOAD.**

“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you! When you pass through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned up; it will NOT consume you!” Isaiah 43:2

“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.” Psalm 19:7 (NAS)

**PRAYER: Lord You are our Good Shepherd, For all our broken souls we ask, we receive Your restoration. Amen.**

1. **FOUR FOR THE ROAD:** In what ways does Ps 23 indicate that the Lord gives us rest, refreshment, and restoration?
2. Think of a time when someone hurt you and you carried resentment how you felt, and how you could have felt differently over time if you had not continued to carry resentment.
3. Think of any resentment or bitterness you are still carrying what specific steps can you take in the next week to stop hurting yourself with your anger?

*“But he was wounded for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten and took our punishment so we could be whole. And through his wounds, our wounds are healed. All of us have strayed like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.”* Isaiah 53:5-6

4. Read this passage from Isaiah. Discuss what it says about how we are healed and what part your own acceptance of his healing plays in your faith and soul restoration.