

A Daily Dose of Good News

Friday, August 28, 2020

Pastor Steve's devotion is offered at <https://youtu.be/3JuJpulCilU>

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
Make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
Tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
Seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
His miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
O offspring of his servant Abraham,
Children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
And the Lord made his people very fruitful,
And made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
To deal craftily with his servants.
He sent his servant Moses,
And Aaron whom he had chosen.
Praise the Lord. (Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b)

God Sends You

Picking up on our lesson yesterday from Exodus...
When hearing the Israelites groan under their slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt
God promises to remember the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ...
The promise to bless their family
So that God through them could bless all nations.

And hundreds of years later
The psalmist wrote a psalm
Recounting the way God kept that promise.
God sent a servant Moses
And Aaron whom he had chosen

And those people, doing what they could do
With the resources and opportunity
Which God gave them to do it ...

Moses and Aaron,
Led the Israelites out of slavery into the wilderness and toward the promised.
God kept the covenant with Israel through blessed persons heeding the call to bless others.

And God continues to keep that promised covenant of blessing still today
In part through blessed persons heading the call to bless others ...
Doing what they can do en
With the resources and opportunity that God gives them to do it.

As our nation groans again
Around the events of a black man
Being shot in the back by police officers on one night
And then on another handing a bottle of water
To a white vigilante who had just killed two people.
And our nation groans.

To be sure God hears the groaning
And will keep the covenant to blessing
In part through blessed people blessing others.

Personally I can't see that happening through opportunistic vandalism and rioting.
Peaceful protesting though, seems like a reasonable start
Toward constructive start to dialog and reconciliation.
While it can be controversial too,
Professional athletes across basketball, baseball, hockey and football
Are trying to do the they can do,
Having used their media platform this week to build awareness of the situation
For the sake of cultivating constructive dialog toward suitable resolutions.
I know of schools, universities, banks and other organizations
That are focusing on the matter in the own context
And our own congregation has a Racial Justice Ministry Team
That has been working for a couple months to organize themselves
As a resource to the congregation
Where we pray God will find ways to bless us so that we too can bless others.

And that's to say nothing about all the opportunities you have
Through your individual personal interactions to bless others
According to the blessing God has already bestowed on you in your baptism.

When the Israelites groaned
God heard their cries and kept the promised covenant of blessing
By sending Moses and Aaron.
When we groan today
God hears our cries and keep the promised covenant of blessing
By sending the baptized like you and me. Amen