

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 9th August
sunnysidechurch

Bible passages Psalm 91; Romans 8.31-39

Introduction

Psalms of Trust are the bridge that take us from Lament and Confession to Praise and Thanksgiving and back again

Psalm 91

- opens with bold statement of our trust in God
- range of dangers that God will protect you from directly or through his angels
- ends with God speaking to assure all who acknowledge him of his help and protection

Trust rooted in relationship

- called to dwell with God – spend time with him
- Psalmist loves God and acknowledges who God is
- God promises to be with him and show him salvation

God promises us protection in dangers not from them

- Christians not spared from dangers
- Nothing can separate us from his love – Romans 8
- God uses challenges to deepen our trust in him e.g. Job

God and the Coronavirus

- easy for us to say we trust in God but not know the truth of this if we are never tested
- opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God and our trust in him

Conclusion

God is at work through Coronavirus and will use it for good if we let him

Some questions for discussion

1. What is your experience of trusting God? Think of times in your life when this has been easy and times when hard?
2. Read Psalm 91. What strikes you?
3. What might help you to dwell with God more fully?
4. What does it mean to say that God protects us *in* dangers and not *from* them? How has he done this in your life?
5. 'the use of Psalms of trust while we are in the pit is an act of profound hope which permits new life' (Walter Brueggemann). How might this be true?
6. How has God used the current crisis to draw you nearer to himself? How might he bring good out of it for you and for Sunnyside?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Why not spend some time giving thanks to God for his love for you and asking him to help you trust him more.

Revd Rebecca Fardell