3.29.20

He Comes for Us

Like most of you, my thoughts this week have been many places and with many people - but eventually it all downloaded and rested firmly in only one place - in Christ. Because I have made the choice to trust in God during this crisis, I know that no matter what, His love will surely come find me. Those two truths alone give me all the clarity and linear thought that I need to overcome the adversity of the moment. This morning, I want to talk about a couple of those thoughts with you.

Thought One - "Surely God will rescue me from my errant and anxious thoughts because no matter what - I am going to occupy my mind and my time with Him."

Isaiah 26:3-4

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

We can have complete clarity in anxious moments or crisis circumstances when we TRUST GOD.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Now that kind of clarity allows our anxious and fearful thoughts to be silenced and dismantled.

Ephesians 3:16-18

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

In the closing season of his career, a renowned Oxford professor finally had the opportunity he had wanted for years - to sit and visit with Mother Teresa. As he travelled for their visit he thought over and over about the one question he would most like to ask her if given the chance. As their time together was coming to an end, she asked him how she could pray for him. He paused, and then asked, "as I come into the uncertainty of this last season of my career and life, will you pray that God will give me clarity?" Mother Teresa leaned forward closely to this wonderfully accomplished and knowledgeable professor and said, "I will not pray that God would give you clarity, but I will pray rather that God fill you with complete **trust** in Him - and then you will have your clarity.

I'm praying today that during the unsettling and uncertainty of the COVID-19 outbreak, that we will each day completely TRUST in God, and in Him find the CLARITY we need to navigate another day.

Thought Two - "God, even though I know Your quest was always to come for us, I'm still overwhelmed sometimes that You are able to find all of us, even in the darkness of human despair, and the shadows of our favorite hiding places."

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

It is essential for us to know that God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to come for us. Jesus used the suffering of His cross for us - so that His love would find us.

Colossians 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

The cross of Jesus is the intersection where humanity meets the gravity of eternity. It is at that very intersection where Jesus, the light of the world shines into the darkness and shadows to pull at our heart and feed our soul.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

The combination of God's limitless love and the power of the cross of Christ gives us the assurances and sense of security needed during any hard circumstances or situations - no matter how difficult. His light will shine into our darkness to find and save us. I love this last Psalm...

Psalm 37:23-26

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he will not fall flat on his face, for the LORD grabs him by the hand. I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.