

When Foundations Crumble Part 1

We were all shocked and saddened by the events that took place this week in our nation's capital. Those images of the capitol being stormed and the house and senate chambers invaded will leave a lasting mark on our nation. "God help us. God have mercy on America. God have mercy on the church in America. God grant us wisdom like the men of Isacchar of whom the bible says they understood the times and knew what they should do." I felt the Lord direct me to a passage of Scripture and I just want to share from my heart. Psalm 11:3 you find a question King David asked in what was apparently a violent and dangerous time during his reign in Israel.

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3

When we see the foundations crumbling, what can we do? What is our response supposed to be when as the prophet Isaiah described, **"Justice is driven back and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found and whoever shuns evil become a prey."** Isaiah 59:14-15 Sounds familiar doesn't it? Truth is nowhere to be found. People don't trust anyone or anything. You can find every kind of theory out there so how can you know what's true? Let me invite you to affirm truth this morning. Before I get to the message I just felt like we need to declare, with our mouths and our hearts, the truth. Everything else maybe in doubt, but this I know to be the truth. This I affirm today. I want us to recite the Apostles' Creed.

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy, apostolic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen."

This is the truth. Question whatever else, but know this is the truth. And when the foundation is crumbling or is destroyed, what can we do? We can affirm the truth of God's word. Stand on the bedrock of God's word! And what else does David suggest we do in Psalm 11? Put our trust in the Lord! Look at the first verse. **"In the Lord I take refuge. How then can you say to me: 'Flee like a bird to your mountain.'" Psalm 11:1**

David was being advised to hit the road! Run. Hide. Run to the mountains where they can't find you. I feel like running most days, but God didn't tell us to run. He told us to trust in the Lord, make him our refuge and then stand firm upon the truth of God's word. Paul tells us to put on the armor of God and then says "and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then..." Ephesians 6

The foundations are crumbling. What can we do? James Boice in his commentary writes, "I want to answer the question of verse 3 (what can the righteous do?) with another question...to whom shall the righteous look?" Remember last Sunday I told you it matters where you look. Once we determine where we should look, then we can determine what we can do. The world looks to crazy conspiracy theories but the people of God need to look to the Lord and that determines what we can do! "In the Lord I take refuge" David said. I don't have to run anywhere but to the Lord! We can stand in the time of trouble because we take refuge in the Lord. We look to him! He is our source and resource.

The great preacher of the late 1800's Charles Spurgeon said to the man who had looked to the Lord and placed his trust in him, then, **"His answer to the question, 'What can the righteous do?' would be the counter-question, 'What cannot they do?' When prayer engages God on our side, and when faith secures the fulfillment of the promise, what cause can there be for flight, however cruel and mighty our enemies?" ...Charles Spurgeon.**

Foundations may be crumbling, things may be uncertain, but we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength. We look to the Lord and therefore we have no reason to despair or panic or run and hide. Paul writes, "What shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

We don't have to run in fear. Why? Because the Lord is in control. Look at verse 4. **"The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne." Psalm 11:4**

When the foundations are crumbling we do like Isaiah did when King Uzziah died, we look to the Lord and we see him in his holy temple, we see him seated on his heavenly throne. When David wrote this, he wasn't talking about an earthly temple because it hadn't been built yet. He is talking about seeing the Lord in heavenly glory. He is talking about the Lord reigning in sovereign authority and power. When everything else has crumbled and fallen to the ground, God will still be ruling and reigning in power and authority. Don't be overwhelmed by all that is happening, look to the Lord. See him on the throne of heaven and then let him rule and reign on

the throne of your heart and in your life and your mind and let him rule over your fears and worries as well! Listen to me. When the foundations crumble, when government and business can no longer help you or meet your needs, when education fails us, when science proves inadequate, when the arts and entertainments and sports can't satisfy us, when organized religion fails us, God will still be ruling and reigning on his throne and guess what? The bible says we can still, through Jesus Christ, "approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 5:16 He is still on the throne!

But everything is falling apart! Yes, but God is on his throne and he is still in control. And look at the rest of verse 4. **"He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them."** **Psalm 11:4** Not only is God on His throne and we can look to him and call upon him, but he is looking at us. He sees you! He knows you and knows what is going on in your heart and your life. The writer of Proverbs says **"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."** **Proverbs 15:3.** God hasn't missed anything that's been happening in your life. He sees what's been happening. But that isn't all. God isn't just watching you from a distance, observing but uninvolved. The bible says **"For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."** **2 Chronicles 16:9**

The foundations may be crumbling underneath you or all around you, but the eyes of the Lord are on you and he is going to strengthen you and enable you to stand and not fall! You are never out from under his watchful eye or his loving care. He has his eye on you.

Notice verse 4 says His eyes examine us. The word can mean he looks closely at us, to observe every detail. It can also mean he examines us as in, he tests us or tries us. It may be both, which brings me to this point. When the foundations are crumbling and God is examining us, it's a good practice for us to examine ourselves. You see, when the Lord looks at us, we can't hide anything from him. He doesn't just see the outside, he doesn't just see what we show everyone else, he sees and examines the inside, our heart, our thoughts, our motives. Look at verse 5. **"The Lord examines the righteous but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates."** **Psalm 11:5**

The Lord is examining motives and intentions, plans and purposes. When the foundations are crumbling, we need to examine our heart. We point out the schemes and sins of

the wicked, but are our motives clean and pure before the Lord? David prayed **“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14**

I’m pretty quick to judge, to condemn, to spot the splinter in your eye without noticing the two by four in my own eye. How about you? I defend my cause and my position and everyone else is a big fat sinner or an idiot or both. I’m certain the Lord is on my side!

Do you remember the story found in Joshua 5? Joshua was preparing to march against the walled city of Jericho and he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” Remember the man’s answer? **“Neither”, he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence and asked him, ‘What message does my Lord have for his servant?’ The commander of the Lord’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandals; for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did so.” Joshua 5:14-15**

I’m going to be real honest with you. I’m tired. I’m tired of everyone arguing and fighting and accusing each other of wrong motives and condemning one another and judging one another and suspecting one another. “Well, if you say that you must be on ‘their side.’ Whose side are you on anyway?” I think we need to hear what the Lord said to Joshua again in 2021. “I’m not on your side or the enemies side, I’m on the Lord’s side.” It’s about the King and his kingdom! It needs to be about the business of heaven, about the lost finding Jesus!

The foundations are crumbling and we are doing a lot fussing and fighting but what we need to do is shut up and get shut in with God! Get in the presence of the Lord. Stop listening to every other voice and get in a holy place with Jesus. We need to take our sandals off and fall facedown on the ground in reverence before the Lord and humble ourselves and repent and see if the Lord has something to say – not about America or about the church, or about American politics, but about me and my sin, about you and your sin. He may be telling us we’ve missed it. He may tell us it isn’t about America, it’s about the kingdom, it’s about the lost, it’s about judgment. I’ve heard all these prophecies about judgment coming to the politicians and the wicked judges and no doubt that day will come. Psalm 11 says God will bring judgement on the wicked. But do you know what else the bible says? It says judgment begins at the house of God. **“For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what**

will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17. It starts here, with us! We are to judge ourselves and our motives, we are to get before God and repent and ask forgiveness for our own sins and poor judgment and all the ways we’ve failed him. We’ve had a busy season pointing out all that’s wrong with America but when the foundations crumble, we had better get with God and examine our own heart and motives. God, help us. We need to get in the presence of God and seek his face. God grant us discernment to judge rightly in our own lives! Then we can get busy doing what he’s called us to do and that isn’t to condemn sinners but to proclaim Jesus!

The foundations are crumbling, is there any hope? Absolutely. Look at Psalm 11 again. **“For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.” Psalm 11:7** Jesus said blessed are the pure in heart, the upright in heart, for they will see God. If we will repent and turn to him, if we will act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with God, we will see his face!

Foundations are crumbling so what do we do? Look to him, take refuge in him, see him on his throne, ruling and reigning in power, take comfort in knowing his eye is upon you, he sees you. Foundations are crumbling so let’s take time to get in the presence of God and examine our own heart, our own motives. Repent and call on the Lord. Ask for his help, his mercy, his forgiveness and know that when we ask, he will forgive, he will empower, he will comfort, he will sustain us, he will keep us and we will see his face. He will guide us with his eye upon us.

I want us to pray. Take a moment to examine your heart. Pray along with David. **“Search me O God and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; See if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139: 23-24.**

Don’t let your heart be troubled by everything going on. Even when the foundations crumble, keep looking to the Lord, get in his presence and commit your all to him! The Lord is on his heavenly throne. You can trust him. He will make a way, even when the foundations crumble!

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.