

## Saturday Morning Prayer 25/3/23

The prayer morning focussed on two main aspects the path that God has and is leading us on and how he has, and is blessing us.

### 1) The Path



We read - Psalm 77:11-20 NLT

<sup>11</sup> But then I recall all you have done, O LORD;  
I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.

<sup>12</sup> They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.

<sup>13</sup> O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God of great wonders!

You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.

<sup>15</sup> By your strong arm, you redeemed your people,

(...) <sup>16</sup> When the Red Sea saw you, O God, its waters looked and trembled!

(...) <sup>19</sup> Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters—  
a pathway no one knew was there!

<sup>20</sup> You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep,  
with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds.

People went away for 20 minutes for private reflections and then came back and shared.

- His footsteps are not seen. A number of people picked up on this and shared various thoughts
  - Look up. He holds our hands (Is. 41)
  - The sea would have been the last place they wanted to go into, but God led them in and through like a flock. But he led them through human leaders. Through two human leaders, Moses and Aaron.
  - The sea wasn't the obvious choice  
Someone had shared a prophetic word with the leadership just before our retreat – *“It was not to focus on the first thing that comes to you but rather wait for the latter thoughts, which may be more unusual or not appear so big but could be the best path for the church.”*
  - God's ways are not our ways. God's thoughts are not our thoughts.
- A number were drawn to the picture of the path/road that is on the lounge wall
- Moses went up onto Mt. Nebo to view the Promised land ahead (Although he himself never got to enter) Deut. 32:48-52
- Look at the way you have come, how I blessed you. One person shared some photos they had from our previous premises in Gold St. and the people meeting there.
- But we remembered it's not the building it's the relationships, the community.
- We need to see the gospel in fresh ways.
- Another person shared that we have to both look at the way he has brought us, his blessings, mighty works, but also forget the former things, he is doing a new thing. Each Sunday God does new things. Each Sunday, in some ways. It is a new church. And God speaks fresh words Remarkably this was one of the readings we were just about to have from Is. 43 (see below)
- Remember God's deeds, and miracles and referred to the old song “Count your blessings name them one by one” Jonathan shared that remarkably that is exactly what we were going to do in the next session, and the song had been in his mind when he prepared it.

We read - Psalm 25:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow.

(...) All day long I put my hope in you.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, O LORD, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.

Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O LORD.

Listened to *Fully Known* Tauren Wells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FymxlTRBBr4>

We may feel unworthy to walk the path, But God knows it all, knows everything about us, and loves us nonetheless.

We read - Isaiah 43:16-19

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters,  
(...)

<sup>18</sup> “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

<sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:2-4

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

(...)

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

(...) <sup>4</sup> you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you,

## 2) Blessings

We read - Deuteronomy 7:1,6,11-14

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations (...)

<sup>6</sup> For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

<sup>12</sup> If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. <sup>13</sup> He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. <sup>14</sup> You will be blessed more than any other people

We shared a number of blessings in church life from recent years,

- Building full, God [provides a new one, purchased and refurbished without any loan. And then quickly full again!
- People coming to Christ, people being restored to God / church (both equally valuable!)
- Baptisms
- VBS
- Growth in children and youth work
- More musicians
- Growth in employed team
- Financially blessed
- God through Covid virtually unscathed, and returned to church in full strength.
- Home Groups
- Hearing from God – in the congregation, in the leadership team
- Increasing openness to spiritual gifts in our meetings
- Discipleship groups growth pods
- Preaching workshops / new preachers
- Outreach – Alpha, L2G in the Market place, WWW, Toddler group, Coffee pop-in, Street Pastors, services in a care home

**3) Prayed for –**

- Growth / need for more space on Sunday mornings
- Sunday morning – Rachel preaching on prayer
- Sunday evening – Sharing the vision
- Easter Sunday & Baptism
- Upcoming Funerals
- Need for a different approach to Market place outreach due to our previous pitch no longer being available.