

Do Not Think It Strange **He Committed Himself to Him Who Judges** **Righteously** **April 12, 2020**

I Pet 2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

(All Scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Bible.)

A. The intended result from today's message

- That we would become familiar with the secret place.
- That we would enjoy the victory over trial that comes with faith.

B. Committing ourselves to God

Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the **secret** place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

- In order for a place to be secret, it would have to be that not many people know about it.
- Today I want to talk about a key to the secret place. God is willing that we all know about it. **The key is committing ourselves to Him.**
- The theme we are following is, "Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you,"
 - Peter and James both tell us we are going to confront various trials.
 - And they both teach that confronting trials **in faith** works to our advantage. We end up being better off than if there had been no trial at all!
 - We have been studying what faith looks like: Faith:
 - Loves people God's way,
 - Rejoices,
 - Confesses the terms of the covenant.

- Faith, when exercised, releases the power of God.
- There is a very real hazard we need to be aware of here. I have seen it many times. A well-meaning follower of Christ becomes burdened down by the many responsibilities of faith.
- Illustration: **USS Akron (ZRS-4)** was a helium-filled rigid airship of the U.S. Navy:
 - "Airship" and "dirigible" are synonyms; a dirigible is any lighter-than-air craft that is powered and steerable, as opposed to free floating like a balloon. Dirigibles include rigid airships (like the Hindenburg), semi-rigid airships (like the Zeppelin NT), and blimps (like the Goodyear blimp).
 - In 1937 the German passenger airship Hindenburg caught fire in New Jersey and there were many casualties. Public confidence in the giant, passenger-carrying rigid airship was shattered and this marked the abrupt end of the airship era.
 - In May, 1932, the Akron had crossed the U.S. from east to west in three days and they were trying to moor it at a place called Camp Kearny in San Diego. They had burned 40 tons of fuel, the sun was warming the helium, the airship had too much lift and it began to float upward. Most of the mooring crew released their lines but four did not. One let go at about 15 ft., before long two plunged to their deaths and one held on for about an hour before being hoisted on board the airship.
 - This illustrates how faith works. Instead of struggling to hold on to the promises, we let the promises take hold of us. **The key to this is committing ourselves to God.**

I Pet 2:18-25 18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. 19 For this is commendable, **if because of conscience toward God** one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 **For to this you were called**, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps**: 22 "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, **but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously**; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, **might live for righteousness**—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, **but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**.

- There is a lot happening here not to like:
 - Having a harsh master,
 - Enduring grief,
 - Suffering wrongfully,
 - Doing good and suffering for it,
 - Taking it patiently.
- This is what we are called to.
- Jesus is our example that we should follow in His steps.
- Jesus was able to endure the crucifixion because He committed Himself to God.
- We can call this:
 - Committing ourselves to Him,
 - Leaning on Him, letting Him take the weight.

C. Another illustration: The buoyant force of water

- I've heard commitment defined as the place you're at a moment after your feet have left the diving board.
 - It fits our message well today because the buoyant force of water is a good illustration of the effect of faith.
 - Learning to relax in the water while swimming
 - ...
 - Snorkeling in Maui ...
 - Scuba lessons in Maui ...
 - Just like the sailor needed to understand how to let the rope take his weight, just like a swimmer needs to learn how to allow the buoyant force of water to hold them up, we need to learn how to let God hold us up, how to let the promises in His Word hold us up.
 - It works by committing ourselves to Him, by surrendering, by letting Jesus take control.
 - In other words, we commit to the Word of God.
 - We take our "right of refusal card" out of our back pocket.
 - It is a very ironic thing: The more we lose control, the more control we have. The more we fight to gain control, the less control we have.
- Matt 16:25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

D. How faith works

- We have two different scenarios in mind:
 - A well-meaning Christian, needing help from God, wanting to trust in God and trying to trust in God:
 - And yet unsure if they want to commit or unsure how to commit to Him.
 - Wanting to trust God and yet trying to retain control at the same time.

- Not yielding to the water but fighting it, thrashing around, trying to:
 - Love enough,
 - Rejoice enough,
 - Confess enough.
 - The person who has committed themselves to Him who judges righteously:
 - They trust Him,
 - They have relaxed into Him,
 - They will do as He says,
 - They believe themselves to be safe, blessed and rewarded in His care,
 - They are not splashing around in the water, trying to stay afloat, but have learned the secret of allowing the buoyant force of the water to hold them up, even to the point of putting their face in.
 - They can go forever like that.
- So what then does the Bible say to do when we have fallen into various trials?
 - Love other people, not trying to earn or deserve his care but because we believe we have it.
 - Rejoice, not because we are trying ...
 - Confess, not because we are trying ...
- We do these things because we believe we have the promises of God and because these actions express and solidify that belief.
 - Gift of \$1,000.00: I knew I was leaning on Him.
- Why respond in faith when we encounter trials?
 - Man at Lystra was healed when he put action to his faith.
 - We end up perfect and complete, lacking nothing.