**God’s Power– Foretold 2/16/2020**

 *SermonTalk is an optional resource for those who desire to underscore and apply key concepts from the sermon the previous week. The format and questions are just a menu from which you can choose or use as a foundation for further questions. The material written in bold are Pastor Jerimiah’s key points for our focus.*

Since January, UBC has been on a spiritual journey through the story of Moses to discover God’s Power. Each week had a different focus, five in total so far. As each focus is read, let’s speak through times when God’s power is being displayed in our lives this week. Also, let’s address which areas of power we are struggling to display.

* *Power as a gift*: Either an abusive power (corruption, oppressive, etc) or a flourishing power (creation, freedom). We are called to allow God’s power seen through our actions.
* *God’s power is unstoppable*: Moving at just the right place & pace. We are called to pray in faith even when we don’t see Him working.
* *God’s power is relational*: He hears the cries of his people. We are called to be ambassadors of that power, listening to the cries around us who are hurting, and responding to those cries.
* *God’s power is holy*: Revealed in miraculous situations, uncommon power that reveals an uncommon God and calls us to live an uncommon life. We are called to live differently.
* *God’s power is unparalleled*: The revelation of his divine name reminds us that he is with us, he always is. We are called to live from a position of strength because we know that he is always with us.

Last week, Pastor Jerimiah pointed us to the truth that God is leading us home. Scripture points both to our eternal hope, Jesus Christ, and it points to an eternal dwelling, heaven. Often when we dream of home, we think about a house in a specific setting with certain people waiting for us. Our hearts have that same affinity toward the new heaven and new earth God is preparing for us.

Let’s read through Exodus 3:16-22 to piece together how our eternal hope and our eternal home is being foretold through these scriptures.

* What points of good news can you find in this passage?
* Can we identify some points of difficulty as well?

In looking at the early verses (specifically v 16-17), God is referencing fulfilling and foretelling promises. He refers to the promises He made to Abraham. The following verses in the passage explain just how God will bring that to fruition during the time of Moses. They will suppress other nations and even plunder the current nation who is suppressing them.

God reminds us that we can trust Him and that His credibility is worthy. We must remember that many generations lived and passed away clinging to the promise that God made to Abraham. We can cling to the promises of God, and we must continue to cling to these promises even when we do not see them happen. Just because we don’t see them take place does not mean that they will not take place. The more we trust Him, the more He leads us toward the promises He has given us.

Next, let’s look through verses 18-22 where God makes some very SPECIFIC predictions on what will happen and how it will happen.

* What were God’s predictions of difficulty? How is courage inspired even in knowing that difficulty is coming?
* What are your thoughts on why God would share the difficulty of what is to come rather than to only share the easy parts of what will happen?

So much of God’s interaction with Moses is parallel with God’s interaction with the New Testament church. Scripture tells us of the mighty power of Jesus Christ who came down, walked this earth, died on a cross and was resurrected so that you and I can walk in the hope of the cross. This gospel is one that provides the incredible hope of heaven. Yet it is also one in which we live in the middle. Scripture tells us that there will be difficulty in our life here on earth. There will be trials and tribulation. Yet to persevere in the way we want to for heaven, our hope must be settled solely on Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

* How can a gospel centered life transform the way we walk through difficulty in daily life?
* If a co-worker who didn’t know Christ came to you and was discouraged with life (maybe work life or home life), how would you counsel them?

Scripture guarantees difficulty will come our way. Yet the truth that Jesus took all the punishment of our sin that he might heal us and bring us to peace underscores the sufficiency of the gospel. If we only consider the current condition of our lives, our lives may tend to be centered around comfort, morality, and immediacy. Yet centering our lives around Christ changes every part of our world. Heaven is easy to look forward to because it is “pretty”. Yet scripture also foretells that just as everyone who dies will be resurrected, every one of us can expect to be judged. The thought of judgement isn’t quite as easy to consider.

* What is the good news/bad news about the judgement referenced in scripture? (Rom 14:10, 2 Cor 5:10)
* How does the truth that God truly RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD transform our lives and point to an unparalleled power? (1 Cor 15)

Application:

Our generations are in between the truth of the resurrection of Christ and the hope of the dead resurrected for eternity. This timing can make it difficult to live fully in the truth of what will happen and how that transforms how we live today. Our true home is not the one we go home to today. Our true home is with Christ in eternity.

* How can living in this truth change the way you orient your conversations and activities (your life) for the week ahead?
* The body of Christ is essential for believers to live transformed together rather than isolated and alone. What impact could you see happening if the church were to live in the resurrection power of Christ?

Christ provides a picture, a hope of a life that brings order out of chaos. This is heaven. Heaven is the home of our heart and our soul. And our everyday can, and should, be centered in living for the world that is to come. Just as missionary William Carey said, “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” What great things is God putting before you this week?