

1 Peter 4:12-19
Feilding Baptist
19.7.26

Call to Worship

Welcome to worship with Feilding Baptist Church!

Psalm 33 New Living Translation

- 1 Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord;
it is fitting for the pure to praise him.
- 2 Praise the Lord with melodies on the lyre;
make music for him on the ten-stringed harp.
- 3 Sing a new song of praise to him;
play skilfully on the harp, and sing with joy.
- 4 For the word of the Lord holds true,
and we can trust everything he does.
- 5 He loves whatever is just and good;
the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.

We might find that a strange or disappointing place to begin today. But there are some links to the 1 Peter 4. And thankfully this Psalm closes with these three verses;

- 20 We put our hope in the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
- 21 In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
- 22 Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
for our hope is in you alone.

Here is the reason for worship! God's help, our shield, God's unfailing love, leading to our hope, our trust, and our joy. Three verses to make a note of.

Father God, thank you for your unfailing love! Thank you for walking beside us this week. Thank you for your help, and for being our shield. We come grateful for who you are, grateful for who Jesus is, grateful for the comfort of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing else and no one else worthy of our hope. We hope in you alone, and we worship your alone. Thank you for this time. Thank you for those who are here that we can worship with. Holy Spirit, please bless this time and this space, in Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.

Message - Living Legacy

We are the legacy of Jesus continuing His good work in the world.

This penultimate message, the final of 1 Peter next Sunday.

I was asked the other day, what's the legacy your father left you? I didn't really want to hear that question. But I did, and had to reflect. Now, I'm aware that I have been fortunate to have had dad around for my first 60 years. Someone this week said that they had their dad less than 20 years. Anyway, I'll turn the question to you, what is the legacy your father or parents left you?

For me, it was quite clear, off the top of my head, dad's legacy was 'to have a go'. To not have a go was to fail. To have a go and fail was ok, as you'd had a go. One example of this was out driving with Mum and dad and Diane. We were out for a drive in North Canterbury, Lees Valley to be precise. It's inland and isolated. The Ashley River area. Most people would drive in, have a picnic or whatever, and turn around and drive out. But it is possible to drive through, and come out another way. Far more interesting!

However, this requires the crossing of the Okuku River, a river that does not have a bridge. We got there, and there was a lot of water. I was driving. And I stopped. We did not have a 4WD. Without pausing, dad said - what do you think he said? He said 'Away you go.' Well, it was his car, so I did. And no problems, we got through and out the other side. And got to see some beautiful countryside that I bet very few people have ever seen!

Dad's legacy for me, is the encouragement to 'have a go'.

Last weekend at the national Matariki celebrations, Marama Royal, the boss lady of the Ngati Whatua tribe, said two interesting things in her speech. The first was 'We the living are part of a long story.' Now I don't think she was thinking of Jesus, but it fits eh? The second quote I heard about was this; 'Those who have gone before us, are woven into us.' And that's right, it is more than physical appearance, just looking like someone. It's more than matching DNA. This is about doing the same things, about honouring those who have come before. We don't forget those who have gone before us. We don't do our own thing. We are part of a long story.

And this long story came up elsewhere this week when Anne showed me a picture of Michael wearing the family tartan. Now, it might be one or two years since this family lived in the Scottish Highlands? Whether it is ten years or 200 years, the history carries on. You are literally woven into the clan.

And an aside, Anne has been making crab apple jelly. Excellent crab apple jelly I should add. Michael asked, what is our clan's plant? Guess - the crab apple!

This is a Christian service, so we better head to the Bible, with the question in mind, what is the legacy that Jesus has left us? Have a think about that. What are the things about Jesus that we continue with? Let's read;

1 Peter 4:12-19 (NIV - UK)

Suffering for being a Christian

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?'[a]

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Footnotes

1 Peter 4:18 Prov. 11:31 (see Septuagint)

May God bless these words to our hearts and minds.

So, pretty obvious eh, because we are followers of Jesus, while we model the character of Jesus, we are cut from His cloth, we should expect to expect some of what happened to Him, to happen to us.

A fiery ordeal, v12?! Oh great. And how does Peter start, don't be surprised! But rejoice, v13, as His victory will be ours. We have to acknowledge that the power of sin is greater than our power, it could look like this (not fractions) sin is over human, but God's power is over sin.

<u>power of sin</u>	<u>power of God</u>
human power	power of sin

But the good news is, that the power of God, is greater than the power of sin. This is the victory that Jesus won at the cross, by rising again, and breaking the power of death, of sin, of Satan and evil and darkness.

So yes, while we have the victory, and we live in the victory, verse 14 says, if you are insulted because of the name of Jesus... - is this our legacy, to be insulted? Well, in a way it is. We are woven into Him. A life of ease, of prosperity and wealth is not the image these verses are giving. We are following Jesus, and can't expect any easier life.

But we should read the rest of the verse, if we are insulted because of the name of Jesus, we are blessed, because the Spirit of God rests on us. The Holy Spirit blesses us with comforts in times of mental, spiritual and physical persecution. The Holy Spirit blesses us with inspiration, energy, passion. While we might be being insulted, we have the strength of the Holy Spirit with us to help us endure.

However, we should not expect the Holy Spirit to help us if we deserve to suffer. If we murder someone, if we pinch something, what else does v15 say, if we're any other kind of criminal, take the consequences. Oh, there's a fourth thing, don't be a meddler! What's a meddler? Well, we actually don't know exactly what Peter was getting at? The Greek word he uses must have made sense to him, and to the listeners. I suspect it was something like 'toiletified'. If I said I was going to 'toiletify' my house, we would know what I mean. We've just upgraded our toilets. No one outside of our church would have any idea that this meant upgrade. So the meddling, possibly poking your nose in where it shouldn't be? But whatever it is, it is pretty serious when it gets put in a list with thieving and murder!

Here in v16 the name of Jesus is mentioned again. If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name! It might not be something we want to praise God about at that time. While the suffering is unjust, it does reflect our allegiance to Jesus.

Which is important when we come to v17, which would be sobering, if we weren't following Jesus. We are reminded that we are to give account of ourselves in the last days. There will be a time of judgement. And for those who have not appealed to Jesus, who have continued to live in darkness, how will that go? It's better to suffer a little now, than face judgement with no knowledge or relationship with Jesus.

Finally, v19, there is the family expectation to continue to do good. This doesn't just mean rule-keeping, keeping your nose clean, not getting into trouble. 'Doing good' is much more positive than that. It means bringing fresh goodness, fresh love, fresh kindness, fresh wisdom into the community, into the family, to the people we meet on the street. It's about loving, hospitality, serving, v8-10.

This is about continuing the work of Jesus in the world. This is about bringing good news to the poor, releasing captives, giving sight to the blind, and freeing the oppressed. We continue to do good in the various avenues that we live in. Which might involve prayer, might involve some giving, might involve living with the poor?

Jesus has left us a legacy. The Holy Spirit enables this. May we honour the name of Jesus.

Pray. As we honour those in our families who have gone before us, Father, please help us to honour You, and honour Jesus, in how we live, and what we do. Thank you for the hope that we have, that beyond the struggles that we have on earth, you have prepared a place for us beyond here and now. Thank you for this hope, thank you for this promise. Please help us to stay faithful, as you are faithful. Amen.

[Benediction](#)

(inspired by 1 Peter 4:8-10)

Go now into the world,
inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Live generously, with open hands,
loving one another as if your lives depended on it.
Be good stewards of the gifts you have received,
so that God may be glorified in all that you say and do.

And may the abundant love of God surround you,
may the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ sustain you,
and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit
inspire and encourage you in every good deed and word. Amen.

from With Open Hands, a worship service written for the Canadian Foodgrains