

Pastor Ron Case
2/2/14

“Rest & Distress”

“Flooked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.” (Jeremiah 4:23)

Personal Distress

Luke 12:50 – “I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!”

Mark 14:33-34 – (33) “And [Jesus] took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. (34) And he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.’”

2 Corinthians 1:8 – “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.”

Peripheral Distress

Luke 21:25-26 – (25) “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, (26) people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

Resolved to Rest

Micah 7:1-7 – (1) “Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned: there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires. (2) The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net. (3) Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. (4) The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand. (5) Put no trust in a neighbor; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms; (6) for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. (7) But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.”

Key Point: Lay Distress to Rest by *Looking* to the Lord

“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” (Isaiah 26:3)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking (*aphorao – to look away from all else at*) to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I get caught up in the drama and stress of this world whether near or far? (Is. 8:12-13)

Can I experience God’s goodness in the midst of the tumultuous world? (Ps. 27:13-14)