



Sermon, Sunday May 14, 2023 “My Servant Job”

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 42:1-5 ¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?” ⁴ These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help.

Introduction: When Fear and Discouragement Come to Us

On Saturday, May 6th, a mass shooting occurred at “ALLEN PREMIUM OUTLETS”, a large shopping mall in the suburbs of Dallas, Texas. As a result, a Korean American couple, their 3-year-old son, two sisters who attended a nearby elementary school, and a young man in his 20s from India died. All these victims were enjoying the weekend shopping with family and friends. But a tragedy happened to them.

If we think that we could be the protagonists of this case, it becomes even more tragic. Furthermore, since there is no social cohesion around 'gun control', these types of incidents will continue to occur.

We experience despair and fear in these situations. At times like these, we must take good care of our hearts but how can we do that? According to today's text, the psalmist tells us to put our hope in God when we are discouraged and anxious. When we put our hope in God, we can overcome fear, discouragement, and anxiety with God's help. Then what does it mean to live with hope in God?

Body: What is life with hope in God?

First, those who put their hope in God are those who take God as the owner of their hearts. As we go through life, we face many difficulties. However, we cannot overcome the worries, anxiety, and despair of the world with our own strength. But if we take God as our master in our hearts, we can overcome fear, anxiety, and despair.

Because God is the substance of love. So, **1 John 4:16** says, “**And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.**”

Also, perfect love overcomes fear. That's why **1 John 4:18** says, “**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**”

Today is Mother's Day. Among the various types of love we experience in the world, a mother's love is great. A mother's love makes her children live and mature. A mother's love enables her children to live a happy and enjoyable life. So, the reason we are living a happy life is because of mother's love.



I mentioned the Texas mess shooting at the beginning of today's sermon. According to reports of the Texas shooting, 6-year-old William survived the scene. It is said that William survived because William's mother Mrs. Kang wrapped her body around her son. According to an eyewitness to the incident, William, who was covered in blood from head to toe, said, 'Mommy's hurt, Mommy's hurt'. This is a truly tragic and unfortunate incident.

However, love saves someone by sacrificing oneself even during tragedy. Like William's mother, who used herself as a shield to save William, the Lord saved us through the death of the cross and gave us hope. The Lord has driven out fear and despair in us with His love.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! It is a great comfort and help to know that God is with us when we are in trouble. Therefore, if we realize and know the grace that God loves us and has given us through Jesus Christ, we can gain comfort, strength, and hope in any situation. I hope we all have that kind of faith.

Please remember. We must attend God in our hearts and live believing in God's love and help. Then, what does it mean to live with hope in God?

Second, those who put their hope in God are those who do not look at the environment but stand firm on the Word of God.

Living in the world, many things we encounter often put our minds to the test rather than giving our hearts peace. When we meet people, we talk a lot. And the more we talk, the more mistakes we make with our words. We use our words to judge, condemn or gossip about others. Also, there are times when our inner desires are revived or tested through encounters with other people. Of course, there are also good meetings and beautiful language in life. But the fragility of human existence can produce negative results even in these encounters.

Therefore, we must keep the words of the Bible in our hearts and be able to resist the environment with those words. The words of the Bible reveal our hidden sins, give us courage during discouragement, and lead us to look for hope during despair. Therefore, I recommend memorizing as many words of the Bible as possible.

3 John 1:2 says, “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” If we memorize these words, when worries and fears such as ‘How will I live?’ come, we can overcome those worries and fears through the comfort of words.

Also, Isaiah 41:10 says, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” If we can recall these words when fear comes into our lives, we will be able to gain great comfort and courage.

Therefore, I hope that even a small portion of the time spent in the world, eating delicious food, visiting good things, and meeting the needs of our body, is used as time to read, memorize, and meditate on the words of the Bible. The Holy Spirit will give us amazing blessings during that time. Then, what is the other meaning of living with hope in God?

Third, those who put their hope in God are those who pray when they are in trouble.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! How is your prayer life with the Lord? Have you ever had the experience of the Lord answering your prayers? Please remember. We must pray for God to work through our prayer. When we pray to the Lord, it is an expression of our faith in the Lord. We cannot pray if we do not have faith. So, if we don't pray, how can God show us His work? We must kneel before God and pray until confidence and peace come to our hearts. So, the Lord said in **Jeremiah 33:3, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”**

We humans are weak and there are many things we cannot do. But with Almighty God, nothing is impossible. Therefore, when you encounter difficulties, do not be discouraged or afraid, but go to God and pray. When we pray, God works and solves problems and opens the way.



By the way, it is not easy to pray at a regular prayer time in our daily life. That is why prayer requires patience. We must clearly know that the success and happiness of our lives are not in our human ability but in God's help. **In Revelation 3:7 says, “When the Lord opens a door, no one can shut it, and when the Lord shuts a door, no one can open it. If the Lord exalts, no one can lower it, and if the Lord lowers it, no one can exalt it.”** Therefore, no matter what circumstances you are in, please do not lose heart and pray.

Conclusion: What are we hoping for?

Now let's summarize today's message. The pain and tribulation that comes into our lives is not someone else's business. We can be the main character of pain and tribulation at any time. That's why we shouldn't turn away from the pain of our neighbors. The difference between us as Christians and those who do not believe in the Lord is that our hope is in God.

Because our hope is in God, we have taken God as our master, strive to abide in His Word, and live a life of relying on the Lord through prayer. We hope that we will overcome all the tribulations and difficulties of our lives through a life with hope in the Lord.

