

Singing the Psalms of Ascent

The Fruit Chasm

Fifth Lent Reflection: **Psalms 127 and 128**

March 22, 2020

To Be Finite

You can lead a horse to water...

Planting a field, starting a family, selling a product, teaching a value

The chasm that cannot be crossed

What we can control: the placing

What we cannot control: the making

Herein lies wisdom

Background

An agrarian society and the importance of children

Psalm 127

The vanity of thinking we control what we do not: v.1-2

Those who can truly relinquish the illusion of control over to God can sleep: v.2

I don't have control, but Someone does, Who is God and GOOD! Psalms 106:1; 107:1; 118:1,29; 136:1

The good gift of children as a tangible sign of God's goodness: v.3-5

Psalm 128

Fruitfulness as alignment: v. 1-2

Obedience is a rainbelt!

The difference between the "prosperity gospel" and "the way of blessing"

--general principle of things working when aligned with God's principles

--avoiding unnecessary consequences;

--unbroken, uncluttered, uninterrupted fellowship with God when things go awry

The good gift of family: v.3-4, 6

The good gift of an ordered city: v.5

Crossing the Chasm Into Fruitfulness

Commit yourself to the right bridge that leads to true fruit: Jesus! John 14:6; 15:5

Do the next right thing

Be patient: 1 Corinthians 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18)

Be content with what is given, thankful, and trust God's redeeming hand is always at work

Practice Sabbath; work from rest; use the "pause" (thanks to Heather Martin's Lenten devotion)

Journey Signs: Lament as a Map > Wrapped in the Coat of God's Keeping > Our Feet on a Rock > Sweet Drink from the Canteen > An Apple on the Tree >

The Poem Quoted in the Sermon

Author Unknown

From an old English parsonage down by the sea,
There came in the twilight a message to me;
Its quaint Saxon legend, deeply engraven,
Hath, as it seems to me, teaching from heaven.
And all through the doors, the quiet words ring
Like a low inspiration, "Do the next thing."

Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,
Time, opportunity, guidance are given.
Fear not tomorrow, child of the King,
Trust that with Jesus; do the next thing.

Do it immediately, do it with prayer,
Do it reliantly, casting all care.
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand,
Who placed it before thee with earnest command.
Stayed on omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all resultings; do the next thing.

Looking to Jesus, ever serener,
Working or suffering be thy demeanor,
In His dear presence, the rest of His calm,
The light of His countenance, be thy psalm.
Strong in His faithfulness, praise and sing;
Then, as He beckons thee, do the next thing.

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