Living In Uncertain Times

THE CHALLENGE OF UNCERTAINTY

PHILIPPIANS 4:5-7

Philippians 4:6-7

- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Introduction

A. Uncertainty can result in fretting

B. Uncertainty can result in failure

C. Uncertainty can result in faith

A. Fear

1. Loss of perspective

Job 3:25-26

25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

- A. Fear continued
 - 2. Loss of love
- 1 John 4:18
- There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

A. Fear - continued

3. Lack of God

Hebrews 10:27

But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

B. Failing resources

1. When we see them dwindling

1 Kings 17:12

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

- **B.** Failing resources continued
 - 2. When we think no one cares
- **Matthew 6:31-32**
- 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

- C. Fragility of life
 - 1. Its fleeting nature
 - a. In time
- **James 4:14**
- Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
 - b. In riches
- Proverbs 23:5
- Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

- C. Fragility of life
 - 2. Its final outcome
- Luke 12:20
- But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.

A. Trust in God's provision

Exodus 16:15

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

- B. Trust in God's plan
- **Genesis 45:4-5**
- 4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.
- 5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

C. Trust in God's protection

I Samuel 17:45-47

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

- C. Trust in God's protection
- I Samuel 17:45-47 continued
- 47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

III. The Comfort in Uncertainty

A. God's presence in our trials

Daniel 3:24-25

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

III. The Comfort in Uncertainty

B. God's peace in our hearts

Mark 4:39

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

III. The Comfort in Uncertainty

- C. God's promises in our lives
- **Genesis 12:1-3**
- 1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
- 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
- 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Do Not Be Uncertain In Uncertainty