

In a Little While

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“Mommy, when can we play” “Mom, when will we get there?” The kids seem to pester us with questions because they want instant gratification. As adults, we learn to be more patient, working toward long-term goals. But there is a threshold in everyone that eventually wants to know... “When will this be over?” Many of us have reached this point with COVID 19 and its subsequent restrictions on our lives. The frustration of being teacher, employee, chef for three meals a day, and seven-day-a-week daycare supervisor has taken its toll. So now we ask God, “When will this all go away?”

In the Old Testament, many prophets foretold when God would intervene in their circumstances, yet most often, the people either did not pay attention to the prophet or completely misconstrued prophets’ words. The Bible describes how we will experience trauma as the time of Jesus’ second coming closes in on us. However, we don’t seem to apply these verses to our current situation, whether the corona virus or any other issue we face.

I have asked God to put a card under my door that gives me my answers, but have yet to see one. I think, *If I could just know when it would end, I could hunker down and deal with the issues.* Have we even thought to ask God for a picture of what He sees when He looks over our virus-infected world? He may be trying to reveal specifics for you and your family, but you haven’t asked Him to do so.

Even, when Jesus revealed to His disciples what was going to happen to Him, some rejected His words, some plotted against His words, and others didn’t have the faith to see His overarching destiny on Earth. Look at the conversation that occurred between them in John 16:16-22.

“In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me.”

Then some of His disciples asked one another, “Why is He telling us, ‘In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” They kept asking, “Why is He saying, ‘a little while’? We do not understand what He is saying.”

This sounds so much like what our own kids might say to us when we tell them, “In a little while.” Jesus then gives the disciples some important words.

Aware that they wanted to question Him, Jesus said to them, "Are you asking one another why I said, 'In a little while you will not see Me, and then after a little while you will see Me'? Truly, truly, I tell you, you will weep and wail while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman has pain in childbirth because her time has come; but when she brings forth her child, she forgets her anguish because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

Jesus is giving us guidelines when we go through trials. First, don't look to other people to see what is truly happening. The disciples were confused. Many people who feeds on TV or in the news display the same kind of confusion about the virus and what to do. Second, Jesus says to see God in the midst of the trials. This shows in the way Jesus speaks about how the disciples would display the opposite emotions that the world showed.

Finally, Jesus uses a picture of how time plays out in God's sovereign design. A woman's travail is a relatively minor in proportion to the joy she experiences in the birth of her child. The same should be true of us. What is the joy we hope for when the pandemic is over?

I Peter 5:10: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Remember the seed was planted inside the womb, even knowing there would be travail before the birth. What seed of promise might you plant within the walls of your heart and the hearts of your family members, so that when this is over will we rejoice as our new world emerges?

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