

8/4/2019

“God Is Good”

Scripture: Psalm 100; Mark 10:17-27; 2 Peter 1:3

Series: Moving with the Spirit

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: We are blessed from God’s goodness, most wonderfully in and through Jesus

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year was “**God is good!**” It was such a blessing to be with the children, youth and adults for the opening and closing of this year’s VBS, where the children shouted it out like a lion’s roar. Here are some of the things they learned, and others as well.

Let me begin by saying that as much as it looks like a jungle in here, it did outside as well! ☺ We’ve been somewhat struggling with outdoor maintenance and yardwork here at Town Point for some while. And while we’ve been blessed by those who have been able to handle some of the regular, as well as occasional needs, nature had taken over with all kinds of plants, shrubs and trees. Well, with many of us coming together at the same time, with the assistance of needed supplies and equipment to do the job efficiently, we made tremendous progress yesterday, exceeding expectations in less time than allotted; less than four hours!

As the psalmist proclaims with praise and thanksgiving. . . *“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”* (Psalm 100:5)

We are blessed from God’s goodness.

And as David blessed God saying, *“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”* (Psalm 34:8).

From Mark’s gospel account we read . . .

*“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. ‘Good teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘**Why do you call me good?**’ Jesus answered. ‘**No one is Good—except God alone.**’ . . . ‘It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, ‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘**For mortals it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.**’”* (Mark 10:17-18, 25b-27 NIV, NRSV)

Goodness can come from all circumstances.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

So, if you've been experience hardship or suffering, don't be defeated; remember God's goodness!

If you've been falsely accused or just a lot of putdowns and negativism, don't let it get you down; remember God's goodness!

If you're having a difficult time making a decision, often stressing out about the little things, don't feel overwhelmed; remember God's goodness!

Ed Romero of Texas shares (The Upper Room 8/1/19) . . .

“Throughout my life I have faced situations where I was uncertain of what to do and was afraid of making choices on my own. Before I truly entrusted my life to God, I believed that every aspect of my life had a 50 percent chance of success; if I made the wrong choice, I would fail. Unfortunately, I often doubted my decisions and would spend hours regretting the things I did.

“After a few years, I grew to understand Christ's power and faithfulness more clearly. My problems became less stressful and I began to rely fully on the Lord to guide me, trusting that God would lead me to good things.

“I regularly remind myself of the motto “God is good all the time.” It is easy to forget it during times of distress. When we remember that God is always by our side, we can stop focusing on smaller issues and find great comfort. When we seek God's will, we can live in confidence knowing that God is always working for good.”

And friends, if you haven't given your life to God yet, trusting in God's goodness and grace, remember this . . .

God's goodness leads to repentance.

As Saul of Tarsus discovered before being known as the Apostle Paul, and later writing these words to those in Rome . . . *“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4, NKJV)*

God's goodness and power call us and gives us all that we need to live in faith.

For those of us who seek to live the way of Jesus Christ, sometimes struggling with sin and temptation, remember the words of Peter, some of my favorite sung by the group called Acapella . . .

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3).

Friends, as the Holy Spirit moves us, let each day be a day we can affirm and proclaim with joy the goodness of God, ***“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever. . .”*** (Psalm 100:5)

Let us pray . . . Dear Lord, we thank you for the lives you have given us. Help us find comfort in you and trust that you are guiding us toward the good. Amen.

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Questions for Reflection . . .

How have you experienced the goodness of God?

How do you, or have you, witnessed/shown that goodness to others?

How do you express your joy for the Lord’s goodness?