

Changing the Way You Think (Part 5): Holy Restraint

- I rarely have re-preached the same lesson...

2 Peter 1:12-14

I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you *already* know them and have been established in the truth which is present with you... to stir you up by way of reminder, so that you will be able to call these things to mind.

- Profound Passage – Very Deep Characteristic of How God Works

2 Peter 3:8,9

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: **With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient...

- More than just a time element – Because unlike us, He is not bound by time...
 - Instead, a deeper understanding of a plan
 - A Calm Confidence in a deeper power than what may seem to bring immediate results
 - A willingness to wait -- to not compromise for a lesser good...
- **Everything in Us Struggles with this (especially in doing “good” or “justice”)**

Acts 7:23-30

"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' When Moses heard this, he fled and forty years passed..."

WAIT

“Instead of crushing the power of evil by divine force; instead of compelling justice and destroying the wicked; instead of making peace on earth by the rule of a perfect prince; instead of gathering the children of Jerusalem under His wings whether they would or would not, and saving them from the horrors that anguished his prophetic soul—He let evil work its will while it lived; He **contented Himself with the **slow unencouraging ways of help essential; making men good**; casting out satan, not merely controlling him... **To love righteousness is to make it grow, not to avenge it...Jesus resisted every impulse to work more rapidly for a lower good.**”**

--George Macdonald

- The Christian Life is a Marathon, not a Sprint
 - It's where **Ambition Gives Way to Contentment**
 - It's Where **Desire Gives Way to Thanksgiving**
 - It's Where the need to **Anxiety Gives Way to Patience**

STAND FIRM

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

- Interesting Metaphor of Suiting Up With God's Holy Armor
- "Stand Firm" or "Stand Your Ground"
 - Not, "Charge Ahead..."
 - Vulnerable
 - Not Ready
 - Give away your position
 - People Get Hurt
- The Battle Belongs to the Lord!

1 Samuel 17:47

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; **for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.**

- Why is the word 'Behold' in the Bible So Much?
 - 1527 times
 - Watch, Fix Your Eyes, Pay Attention and See...

Psalms 123:1-2

To You I have raised my eyes, You who are enthroned in the heavens! **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, As the eyes of a female servant to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the Lord our God, Until** He is gracious to us.

HOPE

Psalms 131

My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; **like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.**

- No longer like a demanding infant for instant nourishment, gratification, attention – but a peace in waiting, standing, and in hoping...
- Control is the Arch-Enemy of Holy Restraint

1 Peter 5:6-10

Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you **at the proper time, (WAIT)** ⁷ having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you. ⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ So **resist him, firm (STAND FIRM)** in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. ¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in **Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you (HOPE).**