

PRAYER - EASTER SUNDAY: 12 04 2020

Today I would encourage us to reflect on the concept of *redefinition*.

Often in times of crisis/hardship we are forced to reflect and reevaluate our lives, thinking about the aspects of our lives we hold closely; the people, places, things. In the light of the current crisis, we are all redefining ourselves in so many ways. Social media is full of weird and wonderful ways people are passing the time in isolation. Redefinition I believe goes much deeper than merely finding alternative ways of passing a day. It is a valuable opportunity to rediscover/redefine our lives, relationships, values, priorities.

In thinking about this, I was reminded of a song from one of the bands I enjoy listening to (Foo Fighters). Not a Christian band by any means but a band I enjoy listening to nonetheless. (Don't judge me!!!) One of my favourite songs of theirs is *Times Like These*. It is a song that was written at a time when the band was facing a crossroads in their career. It talks about times when we face a crisis and the options we have in terms of how we respond. Do we face it head-on and see an opportunity to create something new, or do we turn and walk away? The chorus lyrics are a celebration of what hardship can bring if we decide to instigate a positive response;

It's times like these I learn to live again,

It's times like these I give and give again,

It's times like these I learn to love again,

It's times like these and time and time again.

At this drastic point in Earth's history, we have certainly come to a crossroads (in the case of COVID-19, I'd say **roadblock!!!**). What decisions do we need to make? How can we redefine ourselves?

At Easter we celebrate the ultimate redefinition; Jesus redefining our lives in the light of the sin and death that once overshadowed the life intended for us; to live under the lordship of our Creator in all its richness, joy and abundance. Jesus was at a crossroads. He had a choice about whether to proceed or not with His Father's plans for humanity's redemption despite the universal cost to Him.

The rest they say is history and we now have the opportunity to go forward because of what He accomplished for us. This time more than ever, we need to reflect once again and avail ourselves of all that Jesus has accomplished for us to help us redefine ourselves and in turn help others to do the same. The history of the world is punctuated with significant moments of tragedy, but are always highlighted by the good that has come out them; redefinition.

On this Easter Sunday we can;

1. Thank God for the good that has come out of this situation; for the fun, creativity and humour that we see emerging.
2. Pray that families are “forced” to spend more quality time together and rediscover the joy that comes from this.
3. Pray that vulnerable families are protected from the strain and tension that often exists when people spend too much time together and that they find the support they need.
4. Pray that we as Gods people see this hiatus as an opportunity to reflect, review and redefine our lives in a positive way.
5. Pray that people, who do not as yet know Jesus find Him this Easter/during this time.
6. Pray that people, community, nations will be redefined.

Amen and Happy Easter everyone.

Brett