

In Touch

DARK DAYS

Dear Friends:

I'm sitting at my office desk at church with two pictures to the outside world. Over my shoulder to the left is my office window where I see a typical April day in Ohio – cloudy (remember when April was sunny and warm most of the month?). On my right is my computer monitor with a live shot of the Cornell University live birdfeeder watch (a camera is placed near a small lake area with full birdfeeders). This view is sunny and beautiful, you can even hear the birds chattering and the geese on the lake. Cornell U. is in the west-central part of New York. Looks like they're having the same weather we had yesterday, sunny but windy. Which view would you rather have? The one that is serene and sunny (Cornell) or the one that is cloudy and gray (Columbus)? Some would describe our days as dark or gray.

Some would say we are living in dark days now that COVID19 is here. In some ways we are living in dark days, but this is certainly not the first time in our history. How about WW I & II. How about the Great Depression, the Cold War, 9-11, or even the Great Recession of 2008? Each generation forgets the dark day(s) of previous generations. Let me briefly remind you about some very dark days of 3,500 years ago – the Jewish people while in the land of Egypt. To save space I'll briefly describe the events of Exodus 5 & 6. This is the story about when Moses' delivered the news that the Jews would leave Egypt - a promise from God. Almost immediately after the people get this good news the days grow dark. Pharaoh gets mad and makes life miserable for the people.

What emotions/feelings did Moses AND the people feel? First: confusion. God said things would get better, by why did they immediately get worse? Second: criticism. In this case the criticism was aimed at Moses from the people. When we're in dark days we tend to be critical of others. Third: complaining toward God. Read Exodus 5:22 & 23. Moses goes directly to God and asks the question that people still ask today when days are dark: "Why Lord?"

What's the cure, how do you get out of dark days? First: clarity. In exodus 6:1 God makes it clear: "Now you will see...". Focus on God and he will help you see your way through the darkness. Second: commitment. You must stay committed to God and you can be sure he will always stay committed to you. God said to Moses: "Because of MY mighty hand (Pharaoh) will let you go". No matter what the weather is outside, no matter what the COVID19 forecast is: clarity and commitment will make life sunnier!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Church Events: Sunday 9:00 a.m. Prayer Gathering via conference call: 605-313-5846 when prompted, 881885. HIGHLY ADVISE BEGIN CALLING AT 8:45 then just wait.

Prayer: The families of those who have died from COVID19, for the decline of the virus to continue, Dr.'s Sunil & Trisha Bhat & family as Sunil & Trisha continue their regular work, Kirk McVay, Public Defender as he sees clients & goes in & out of jails, government leaders, wisdom for our church Management Team as we plan for re-opening of the building