



## Life Group Sermon Study Notes

### “Good News for the Weary”

Ps. Bruce Fidler – July 5, 2020

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How many different organizations have you worked for in your lifetime? Which one was the most unique?
- At what time of day or night are you most productive?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

#### **Galatians 6:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

#### **Weariness of Today**

**There is a growing measure of weariness – restlessness in body and soul – that humanity is feeling right now.** COVID19 has resulted in half a million deaths worldwide, being socially isolated is the new norm, economic fallout is massive, and no concrete ideas of how it ends. Then there is the deferred hope for African Americans by the repeated dehumanization and systematic injustice that has occurred to various degrees for hundreds of years. Furthermore, there are broken relationships, other health concerns, and the spiritual conditions of loved ones that burden us.

#### **Hope for the Future**

With so much going on, how can we take heed not to grow weary? To experience weariness and the emotions that come along with it is part of being human. **God invites us to go to him and find rest.** One of the great mysteries of Jesus is that he is God in the flesh. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, John Calvin puts it, “Christ has put on our feelings along with our flesh.” He was like us

in every way except he had no sin in his heart, thoughts, attitude, words, or deeds. He took on all of humanity to the cross to save our bodies, mind, and souls. He rose in bodily form and is returning the same way to bring about the full transformation in his people and the world.

Hebrews 12:3 says to consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah prophesied about Jesus as the one who sustains the weary. He stated he would be able to do so because he would hear from God and obey his instructions daily. He knew God has his strength and vindicator. The gospel records that Jesus often retreated from the crowds and his disciples to have time with God. The same way, Jesus – in his humanity– drew strength by speaking to the Father is the same way we gain strength. The primary way God speaks to us now is through scripture. God gives daily instructions and counsel for every aspect of life. As we read scripture, we learn to wait on the Lord. In other words, he settles our hearts and gives us the strength to continue to do things his way.

Despite the times, we have great reason to hope and be confident that we will come out of the pandemic, recover economically, and see progress for racial and social justice. However, our ultimate hope is in the Old and New Testament promise of the return of Jesus. He will remove all sin, injustice, sickness, and death. We will be free of guilt and shame and be safe and prosperous. Our great hope is not in a perfect life now but in the perfect life to come. May we strengthen ourselves in scripture as we hope for the future and his blessed return.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Why is understanding the humanity of Jesus just as crucial as understanding his deity?
- How would you explain the mystery of Jesus being God in the flesh to someone who doesn't understand?
- How are you doing with reading scripture daily?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.**

- Thank God that Jesus took on flesh to save us and the promise of his return.
- Ask God for the hunger to daily seek God through time in the Word.
- Ask God for the strength to share the hope of Christ with others.