

Mid-Week Devotion

Holding Hands



Read Is 65:1-7

“I held out my hand all day long...”

When you were a child your parents probably held your hand when you walked together, especially crossing streets or in crowded stores. Not only did they hold your hand but they were usually also a little out in front. They did these things because they wanted to make sure you didn't get hurt and didn't wander off by yourself and get lost.

As adults we usually don't like to have other people hold our hand unless of course we need assistance and even then we still don't like it. We don't want others leading the way in our lives either; that is something we all want to do for ourselves.

When it comes to having God lead the way, the people in the Bible usually took one of two positions. If they were the kind of person who thought God was moving too fast they would try to slow Him down. Moses was this kind of person. After leaving Egypt, a confessed murderer, Moses had made a comfortable life for himself as a Shepherd. Then when God called him to return to Egypt, Moses came up with one excuse after another why he was not the right man for the job. Another character that we find in the Bible was David, only he was the opposite of Moses. For David it would seem that God could not move fast enough. David's answer was to move on without God, coming up with vision after vision, plan after plan, on his own.

Moses was always lagging behind God, while David was always out in front of God. However, neither of these positions is good. If we lag behind God, it is frequently because we have become too accustomed or too comfortable in our life. If we run out in front of God, it is generally because we are impatient and believe that God simply needs a little help from us to get things going!

The reason neither of these positions are good is that they place us in situations with God where we do not have to depend on Him. When this happens, God intentionally calls us out from our comfortableness or our impetuosity to remind us that we need a Savior. “I held out my hand all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good,” God cried through the prophet Isaiah.

Walking with God is just like walking with your parents when you were young. He is slightly out in front, holding your hand, leading the way. He leads you in the way that is good, so you will not get lost. When you walk with God in this way, life becomes an adventure. It is not always easy, but God doesn't do this to frustrate you or make your life difficult; rather He does it because He loves you enough not to let you lose your way. To do this however, He needs to hold your hand firmly, but He can only do that if you are willing to let go of the comfortableness or the impetuosity you have been holding onto so tightly with both hands. As scary as it may feel, you must first let go, so that He can take hold.

Loving Father, help us to let go of these lives that we have created and are clinging to, allowing us to place our hand in Yours, that you may lead us in Your way. In Jesus name, Amen.

Pastor Ed