

March 26, 2020

Good morning, Everyone.

This morning is the best kind; coming after a night's sound sleep . . . beginning early. Don't we wish they all would start this way!



In the first of these pastoral letters I explained that my reason for beginning them was to give some considerations and suggestions for our spiritual stewardship of this crisis. One suggestion was that we reflect on ways in which the Lord has providentially prepared us for this hour.

One of our teens wrote this week, sharing something that I subsequently asked permission to send to all of you. Permission was kindly granted. The only condition was that I withhold the name (smile).

Since you've been encouraging us to look for ways that God has been preparing us for the Coronavirus, I thought I would share something that God brought to my mind. In the service this evening when you went over the question "Where was God?" in relation to the Coronavirus, I was struck with how familiar the question was. It was familiar because "Where was God?" was the title and theme of our drama for the Senior High Mission Team to New York this past summer. During our mission team preparation, we went over that question, and after every performance of the drama Pastor Rush discussed the question thoroughly with our audience and gave them the answer: God is right here. God taught me so much on that mission team, but one of the things that I learned the most was how I can trust that God is in control even when I don't understand what He is doing. He taught me this not only through the drama but also through teaching in Bible clubs and through many small events that happened throughout our time in New York. Many of the times God was teaching me on mission team I was very confused; I just had to trust that God knew what He was doing even though I didn't know why things were happening the way they did. Now, looking back, I can see that God was using these different means to teach me more about trusting Him. And now the lessons I learned are helping me to trust God through all the uncertainty the Coronavirus has brought into my life! Even though I cannot understand why God is doing what He is doing, I know that He is sovereign and He loves me.

God used our mission team greatly in my life to prepare me for the Coronavirus, and He also did something which no-one could have known when we went. God directed our team to teach about God's faithfulness and love in the midst of suffering to the residents of a city that 6 months later would become America's epicenter of the coronavirus. He is truly a faithful God, and He prepares us for what lies ahead!

Well. . . I'd like to keep encouraging you to reflect back upon God's providential preparation of YOU! And of our church. What else has He done? What has He done that we didn't realize at the time was His sovereign, loving care in advance?

A former president of Wheaton College (during the years when Jim Elliot and Elizabeth Howard were students) would frequently admonish the student body, *Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light.*

If it's a little murky to you right now. What did God tell you in the light?

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick