



**Sunday September 23, 2018
Joy Comes In The Morning**

Psalm 30:1-5

1 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me.

2 O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.

3 O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

4 Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

vs 5 ...Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

We see in the first three verses, the Psalmist mentions difficult situations and what God did...

...enemies.....you lifted me up

...sickness.....you healed me

...close to death.....you kept me alive

There may be different things that happen that cause a "night season" in life...but we must know that as surely as the night gives way to the morning...our night will be turned to day, our weeping will be turned into joy.

(See APC's free publication "Night Seasons of Life" that goes into a bit of detail. We will not cover everything in this sermon).

The "night" can represent many different things...but essentially it is not an easy time/season of life.

It could be a time of "stillness" when nothing seems to be happening.

It could be a time of "obscurity" when you are hidden from "public view", from "visibility".

It could be a time of "aloneness"....

It could be a time of "grief"....

...and so on....

Let's consider a few:

The Night - A Time of Revelation And Preparation

Matthew 10:27



"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

What God speaks to us in the night....we proclaim in the light.
What God speaks to us privately....we announce to the world.

So the night represents a time of preparation and revelation in our lives.
God make take us through such seasons in order to speak to us and prepare us for what's next in our lives.

We see some examples

John the Baptist

Luke 1:76-80

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

John was called to be the prophet who would introduce Jesus to the world. And God kept him in secret, until John was prepared, and at the right time was "manifested" or made visible to the public.

Paul the apostle

Galatians 1:20-24

20 (Now concerning the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God in me.

After his personal encounter with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul spent several years in the regions of Syria and Cilicia. During this time...he "was unknown" to the churches in Judea, while he was preaching in Syria and Ciliciaonly some heard about him.....

This time was also most likely the time Paul received much revelation which he later preached and wrote for us.



Only after about 10-14 years, was Paul finally launched into his apostolic ministry from Antioch.

Application

In many areas of our lives, we go through this season of preparation and learning. This can happen in the workplace, in the call of God over our lives, in your preparation for marriage, etc. We cannot skip it.

Our own impatience may cause us to feel like this is a long, hard and difficult season.

But actually, we are being prepared for the assignment ahead of us.

Remember - the night will pass and morning will come! Joy comes in the morning!

The Night - A Time of "Sowing"

Psalm 126:1-6

1 When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

3 The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.

4 Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South.

5 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.

6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126 written after the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile (Ezra 1:1-4).

This Psalm is a Psalm of rejoicing over God changing their season - they went through their night season - a season of captivity because of disobedience. But now God has turned their captivity around.

It was like waking up out of a dream.

Now they are rejoicing and being glad

Vs 4, Prayer is made for the restoration to be complete. We know that all the Jews did not return at once, but returned over a period of time - some returned under Cyrus, others under Darius, and still others under Xerxes and later.

'As the streams in the South' - referring to the streams south of the land of Palestine, which would dry up in Summer, and then are full due to the rains that come during autumn/winter. So in a similar manner, let the people come out of captivity and swell back into Jerusalem.

Vs 5-6, this whole change of scenario is then compared to sowing and reaping.

There are seasons in life where you have to "sow in tears" and you go forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing. Why "tears" or "weeping" - because sowing is not easy. It is hard work!



So sometimes the night season, could be a season of sowing in tears!

It is hard work!

Maybe you are just starting out professionally. You have to work hard. You are sowing.

But remember you will reap in joy!

Your Night Season?

We have only referred to two kinds of night seasons.

Are you going through a night season? What is your night season?

Does not matter what it is....remember, joy comes in the morning!

Sing! In The Night!

An interesting observation is made in the book of Job.

Elihu says that God gives us songs in the night.

Job 35:10-11

10 But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night,

11 Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, And makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?'

So sing the songs that God gives you in the night.

Let His praise be always on your lips.

Declare His faithfulness even during the night season.

When Joy Comes!

Psalm 30:11-12

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Back in Psalm 30, the last two verses describe to us, the joy that comes in the morning!

He turns our mourning into dancing and gladness.

God does this in our lives by His power.

He does this so that we can praise Him, thank Him and glorify Him.

regardless of what your night season is, expect joy to come!

Joy is on its way!

God will turn your mourning into dancing.

Your season will change!

MINISTRY TIME

SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday September 23, 2018
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Psalm 30:1-12*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) *While we have considered two examples, what other situations could "the night" represent to in people's lives?*

2) *Why is it important to know that "joy comes in the morning"?*

3) *Since we have this promise and the assurance that "joy comes in the morning", what should be our attitude as we journey through "the night" season?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey



Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.