

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18  
Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1:11-23  
Luke 6:20-31

## Sermon November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### *God Cares for the Vulnerable*

In our gospel this morning, Jesus reveals what God's kingdom looks like in comparison with the kingdoms of our world. And what we see in God's kingdom is that God cares for and values vulnerable people (**Image One**: *Of a vulnerable person. Use image wherever image one is*). God cares for and values those who are living in poverty. God cares for and values those who are mistreated. God cares for and values those who are marginalized. God cares for and values those who are persecuted for their beliefs. God cares for and values those who are hurting emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually. God cares for and values us when we find ourselves in a state of vulnerability (**Image One**).

This sermon Jesus delivers to a crowd of vulnerable people gives them hope that even though they are struggling to have access to their needs. Even though they are weeping from their pain. Even though they are facing persecution for their beliefs. Even though the principalities and powers of this world keep knocking them down. That Jesus has come to reveal God's healing and redemption for their lives (**Image Two**: *Of a vulnerable person being helped. Use wherever Image Two is designated*). Jesus has come to turn their fortunes around. They will not have to suffer forever.

This is the hope the Saints, Christians, from every generation of the church, including us, who gather today, have clung to in the midst of our suffering. Jesus has come to reveal God's healing and redemption for our lives (**Image Two**). Jesus has come to turn our fortunes around. We will not have to suffer forever.

Unfortunately, God's healing and redemption for our lives doesn't always happen when we want it to happen. This is why many Christian leaders throughout the centuries have put extra focus on the proclamation that even after death we can experience this healing and redemption. This reversal of fortunes. In heavenly glory. Like Jesus, whose crucifixion experience is transformed into a resurrection experience.

As we remember the Saints that came before us, we find comfort in this belief that they are suffering no more. That they have experienced the fullness of God's healing and redemption in heavenly glory. That their crucifixion experience has been transformed into a resurrection experience.

As Jesus comforts those who are vulnerable in our communities with this promise, Jesus also challenges those of us who have been given the tools, the blessings, the

power to change things, to take up Jesus' invitation to live out our discipleship. To live out our calling to be saints. To value and care for the vulnerable people in our community (**Image One**). To help those living in poverty get access to their needs. To speak out against those who mistreat people. To stand with the marginalized. Finding ways to welcome them back into our community. To support those who are being persecuted. To walk with people in their emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical pain. Helping them find hope in Jesus' promise of healing and redemption (**Image Two**).

As Saints we are called to hope in God's promise of healing and redemption when we face suffering, vulnerability, in our lives, as well as, to care for the vulnerable when we have the means to do so.

Unfortunately, our call to be saints isn't easy to live out, is it? Sometimes in the midst of our suffering we have trouble hoping in this promise of healing and redemption (**Image One**). Sometimes our pain is too much to bear. Sometimes we find ourselves stuck in the darkness. Struggling to see the light. There are times where we do a lot of lamenting before we reconnect with this vision of God's kingdom come. A place where in our vulnerability we are cared for. We are valued.

Sometimes in the midst of our wellness we struggle to be generous, to be caring to the vulnerable people in our community. Sometimes we struggle to value these people. Sometimes we struggle to understand their pain, their suffering, and why their pain, their suffering limits them in their ability to care for themselves. Sometimes, our attitudes and motivations are driven by our thought that these people are not doing enough to contribute to our community (**Image One**). So why do they deserve our help?

As Martin Luther stated, we find ourselves standing simultaneously in both our saintly and sinner identity. We have moments where we live out this calling to be saintly, where we make a difference in someone's life as we care for them in their vulnerability (**Image Two**). As we value them when many in our community don't.

And then we have moments where we say or do things or don't do things that hurt the vulnerable people in our community (**Image One**). That make it harder for them to hope in God's promise of healing and redemption.

In these moments we lean on God's grace to guide us back into our saintly identity. Helping us seek out more opportunities where we can help people in their vulnerability experience God's healing and redemption (**Image Two**).

Because, God's promise of healing and redemption isn't something reserved solely for the afterlife. We find comfort in knowing that our loved ones who suffered dearly in this life are now at peace in God's kingdom.

But God's healing and redemption are very much at work in our world through us, the church as well (**Image Two**). This is why Jesus spends so much time training us. When we live out our saintly invitation to care for the vulnerable in our community people experience God's healing and redemption in the here and now. Including ourselves.

Today we commemorate All Saints Day. Today we hear Jesus' words of promise of God's kingdom come. A place where the vulnerable feel valued, feel cared for. A place that we live out when we welcome the invitation to be God's saints in our world. A place we hope for in its fullness in the world to come.

Let us pray, gracious God, give us hope in your promise of healing and redemption when we are challenged by the suffering in our lives. By the vulnerabilities we experience. When we are doing well, give us encouragement to live out your invitation to care for the vulnerable people in our community. So, they too experience your healing and redemption for their lives. **Amen.**

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