

CAN WISDOM HELP US IN COPING WITH COVID? January 25, 2021

One year ago, the first official diagnosis for Covid occurred. Last January, we did not know the severity, the extent nor the damage that would occur to our world because of this dreaded pandemic. Many people respond differently, but I was wondering how faith can help us through this crisis. I have been reading through the Psalms as is part of my daily devotional reading and came across an interesting phrase in Psalm 119

The author in the section (v89-96) declares emphatically in v89 that your faithfulness endures to all generations for which I give thanks. But then, there is this interesting phrase in v91

*All things are your servants.*

*I stopped and pondered "all things.....servant of God"*

As I thought about this wonderful truth, I realized that all things are indeed his servant to accomplish His own purpose.

I reflected on the story of Joseph and recalled to mind how God used his brothers to get Joseph into Egypt and how they indeed bowed down to him fulfilling the dreams. I thought about how God used a wicked nation like Babylon to discipline his own chosen people—how their temple was destroyed, their king killed, their captivity, the loss of land—was his promise taken away from Him.

As I thought all things are the servant of God. How in the mystery of God can such a cursed thing like Covid be His servant. What will He accomplish through all this? I do not know the answer to all of this.

I cannot control what things are happening around me. I cannot control the government response to shutting down schools, businesses, churches. I cannot control where and how Covid will travel. I cannot control how Covid will impact our economy.

But, I can control one thing.

How will I choose to respond to Covid and its effects?

I can choose to be and think like a victim and sink into despair.

Why don't you read the story of the 12 spies in Numbers 13 and 14.

Why did Caleb and Joshua respond so differently from the other 10?

A clue is given in Number 14:24

Because.....Caleb, my servant has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring him into the land ...his descendants shall possess it.

What was so different in his spirit from the others?

I believe it was the spirit of faith, the spirit of God in its purest form, and an belief that God is bigger than the problem before them.

*My prayer is that the spirit that was in Caleb will be in each of you.*

So then, how do we make the right decision? What made Caleb choose so wisely.

Part of the answer lay in the wise choice he made in – following God fully!

When we follow God fully, when we read His Word and discover the true and living God in POWERFUL, INTIMATE WAY, we find that our thinking changes. When our thinking changes, our beliefs change, and when our beliefs change, we act differently.

Our world needs people who will act differently, act boldly, and rise up against injustice.

We choose our response.

What is the beginning of wisdom? The Fear of the Lord Proverbs 1:5

If you are God fearing, you wont be giant fearing.

It is like Caleb had a supernatural power that fed his spirit that allowed him to rise up and dispel fear and walk forward.

The Ten reacted

The Two responded.

I think there is a big difference between a response and a reaction.

Wisdom (Proverbs) is much like James (New Testament).

The response of the heart/tongue.

Might I suggest that over the next month you try reading through each of the Proverbs (31 chapters – 31 days). James only has 5 chapters.

Ask God for wisdom.

Answer honestly in your heart – things that need to be cleared out

Act

Let me leave you with one other verse of Scripture

### **Proverbs 27:12**

**The prudent see danger and take refuge; but the simple keep going and suffer the penalty.**

Remember as you make wise decisions, you will discover that these decision will affect the direction and the quality of your life.

Eternal values bring a long term perspective.

The simple think only of the moment and that which satisfied momentarily.

We are building a kingdom when we try to build a life. Every moment is important.