TRUSTING GOD AT A CHALLENIGN TIME

STAND ALONE SERMON

30th October 2022

- LIFE GROUP NOTES -

**Key Truth/Principle:** We need not Flee, Fear or Fret but Trust God in challenging times

**Key Verse(s):** Psalm 11

**Key Point(s)**

* God is Sovereign
* God is Judge
* God is Righteous

**KEY QUESTIONS**

**Discussion Questions/ Suggestions:**

1. In speaking of the present challenging time which we are living in, Roy, in Sunday’s preach, referred to things potentially affecting us in three areas: world affairs; our nation; and in our personal circumstances.

**Are there things of particular concern to you with regards to world affairs or our nation?**

1. Like us, king David experienced some very challenging times – one of which it is believed he is referring to in Psalm 11. It is evident however, that David was fully confident in the Lord as his refuge (Ps.11 v.1).

**Have you experienced a particular time (which you feel able to share),when the Lord proved to be your refuge? What did you learn through that experience?**

1. From Ps.11, David’s confidence seems to be helped by his certainty that through all he was experiencing, God Is: Sovereign; Judge; and Righteous.

**In what ways do you think these truths about God can help us when experiencing life’s challenging times?**

**Do you find one of these certainties particularly assuring for you personally?**

1. Roy expressed how Ps.11 points to the need for us to commit, that, with God’s help, **we will not**:

* **FLEE**(v.1) but we’ll stand firm in the faith and against the evil powers (Eph.6)
* **FEAR** (v.2) but trust in God; we’ll live by faith and not just influenced by our physical senses
* **FRET**(v.3), i.e. we’ll not worry, but we’ll guard God’s gift of peace and persevere knowing this develops Godly character.

**At a challenging time, are you most prone to be tempted to FLEE (i.e. give up); to FEAR; or to FRET (i.e. worry)?**

I**s anyone currently facing a particularly challenging time (e.g. with rising prices or physical or mental health); are you finding it especially hard to persevere in the circumstances you are currently in?**

* Pray with those who particularly need prayer support
* Consider if there is any practical help your Group or Redeemer community, might be able to give.
* If appropriate, make the elders aware of the situation

1. In addition to supporting one another in prayer, you may **consider including specific prayer for our** **nation** (including the new Prime Minister) at this challenging time. (2 Chron.7 v.14; 1 Tim.2 v.1 – 4)

**\*\* TOP TIPS \*\***

**Makgin the most of your time together**

**Remember people are indwelt with the spirit – expect them to have something to bring – most just need permission and clarity, and yearn for depth.**

* **WELCOME:** Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving
* **WORSHIP:** Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let’s read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let’s listen to this song, let’s sing now, let’s have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!
* **PRAYER:** Weave into all you do, respond to things as they come up and help people by being specific (e.g. let’s all go round and pray shorts prayers thanking God for a particular characteristic
* **WORD**: Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don’t; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone.