

The Next Morning is Coming

Co-Pastor, Rev. De Anne T. Spann



Isaiah 43:18-19 (King James Version)

18. Remember ye not the former things,
neither consider the things of old.

19. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall
spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even
make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in
the desert.

You know often times people look at where
they've been and where they are now, only to
cloud the picture of where they are going and

where they could be. Right now I'm attending classes in Criminal Justice, and I'm taking 2 classes: 1: Biological Evidence and the other, Crime Scene Dynamics. In these classes we study the how to, where to, what to, when to, and what not to when it comes to evidence and crime scenes. It entails the different types of evidence that 1 may find and how that evidence can be used to convict a person that has committed a crime. During these past 10 weeks with this term, as I've studied, submitted homework and teamwork assignments, participated in online discussion, and provided classmates with feedback, we had a unit that focused on DNA evidence. When it came about, how technology has advanced, and how it's been useful in the conviction of many, I sat and thought about how many people who've been sitting behind prison walls that have been proclaiming their innocence from the very beginning only to be convicted of crimes that they say they didn't commit. Crimes that society said they did! Sometimes their convictions were based on circumstantial evidence, and sometimes their convictions were based solely on the testimony of 1 witness. A lot of times these guilty convictions were handed down even though the evidence presented provided reasonable doubt.

As I thought about these convictions, I begin to wonder just how many times has a person been wrongfully accused, wrongfully convicted, and wrongfully punished for crimes that they didn't commit; crimes that they had been setup for or even crimes that they had nothing to do with.

I'm reminded of the story of Daniel. Here was someone that was a hard worker, committed, faithful, and had proven himself. He was liked by the king therefore put in a position that others that had been there longer than him felt he didn't deserve. So they felt they had to think of a way to get Daniel out of the way. They looked every which way they could to find something, anything, wrong with Daniel, but they couldn't. Ah-Ha, they thought! He's not only faithful with his work here but he's faithful with praying to God. If we can't get directly to him, we'll get him indirectly. So they went to the king, and long story short, they tricked the king by stroking his ego into making a new law that said that no one could ask anything from anyone including God for thirty days.

Now here you had Daniel who prayed to God everyday, and that's just it. Instead of us going to God and just saying Thank you God for waking me up, thank you God for protecting my home, thank you God for protecting my children, just thanking God, we always go to God and ask for something. So goes the story of Daniel. He did as he usually did and prayed to God, and of course, being setup, the 3 men went to the king and said, "Hey. Didn't you just sign something saying that no man could ask of anyone other than you for anything for 30 days" telling on Daniel.

The king was left no other choice but to condemn and convict Daniel to the Lions Den. And although he felt bad, he had to save himself so Daniel Ya Got 2 Go! He told Daniel that I hope your God can save you now. Not because he was being smart, because he liked Daniel but again, if it's me or you, Ya Got 2 Go! So they took Daniel and put him in the lions den, and rolled a big ole' stone in front of the den closing him in.

Just how many times have people done things to you thinking that you have no other options, no other way out? It doesn't matter what trap has been set for you, and it doesn't matter how someone tries to stop the plan of God, if God said it then it shall be!

As the king tossed and turned all night long, not being able to sleep; again not because he wanted Daniel to be eaten by the lions, he did want Daniel to be saved, BUT I gotta do what I gotta do because I've already done something I shouldn't have done, allowing the enemy to trick me!

Don't you allow the enemy to trick you! Going in a direction you know you shouldn't be going in. Doubting what God has already told you will come to pass. God is not a man that He should lie – he's got the whole world in His

hands – and if He promised it, it shall be fulfilled!

When the next morning came (the next morning is coming) and the king arose, he went to the den and yelled, “Daniel, Hey Daniel! Did your God save you?” As he waited and waited, he heard a voice say, “Not only did he save me but he sent an Angel. An Angel that provided protection, an Angel that did the impossible, an Angel that shut the mouths of the lions! The very thing that was sent to destroy me, to eat me up, to swallow me whole, God turned that very thing around for my good!

God used the very thing that the enemy tried to destroy Daniel with to prove himself yet again – that He is God and above Him there is no other. He sits high and he looks low, his arms stretch so wide that they cover every inch of every being at any given time and any given place! So while they are sitting back thinking of the next thing that they can do to destroy you, God hears their thoughts, and is on the other side of town protecting you from the danger that’s up ahead!

As we get back to Daniel, the king was happy and had the stone removed and Daniel was set free. The men that dug that ditch for Daniel had setup their own demise. They were thrown in the den and the same lions that Daniel had used for a pillow had been without a meal and were hungry. But these 3 men provided them with a good ole’ feast.

The bible tells us that he will prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies. Not only did his enemies fall to the very thing that they thought they were setting Daniel up for, but they were there when Daniel came out of the lions den, and they were fully aware that they were going down in the same den that they thought would kill and destroy Daniel. A person that they thought they had setup!

How many times have people knowingly wronged you? How many times have people looked you right in the face and lied to you? Lied about you? Done everything that they could do to set a trap for you and then tried to sit back and watch to see you fall? And how many times have you thought you had fallen and wondered when is it ever going to end? Notice how I said, thought you had fallen! How come those same people that have set me up are walking free is what you’re asking. When is it going to be my turn!

Let me tell you the next morning is coming for me and the next morning is

coming for you! Those very one's that have done everything that they can to destroy you, destroy your character, destroy what God has promised you are going to be sitting back and watching because "The Next Morning is Coming!"

God said, I will make your enemies your foot stool! He said that when you smile, when you go about your way, and when you do what thus saith the Lord, you will heap coals of fire on their head and then he's gonna reward you.

So as the next morning comes, I go back to those men and those women that are sitting behind bars that have been wrongfully convicted just like David. Those that knowingly allowed them to be convicted didn't know that God had a plan down the road. Some new tools were on their way. Some tools of technology. They didn't know that the next morning was coming, and for that 2 men that spent 20 years in prison for a rape that they didn't commit were set free and PAID in 2005. For that, Jeffrey Miller was set free after 25 years in prison and PAID for a rape that he didn't commit in 2006. For that, Nicholas Yarris who was awaiting death was freed after 22 years and PAID for a rape and murder that he didn't commit in 2003. Anthony Caravella was freed and PAID, Arthur Johnson was freed and PAID, James Bain was freed and PAID, Ryan Matthews – freed and PAID. And the list goes on and on and on!!!!

Why do I keep pointing out freed and PAID? Because all of those trials, all of those tribulations, all of those that have accused you, all of those that have turned their backs on you, all of those that have said you won't, you can't, and you never will be, all that has been stolen and taken from you...."The Next Morning is Coming" and you will not only be freed from the hurt and the pain, but God is going to Pay you for everything that you've lost.

Hold on to what you know shall be. If God said it, then it shall be. If anybody can do it – God can and ONLY God can!

I'm reminded of this Maya Angelou quote, "We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." And I add, "What you feel is your defeat, is just night waiting for the next morning".

The Next Morning is Coming!