

Have You Lost Something

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Over the past year, many people have had significant losses: relatives and friends, work/business, communication with one another and many others. Also, due to storms in our lives, some have lost passion, hope, sanity and faith in God. The question is, "will we ever get them back?" "Will we ever recover or be restored? We have good news today! God is always present. Our God is our redeemer; He is in the business of restoring, replacing whatever we have lost.

1. Jesus, our Redeemer paid the price through His crucifixion (Luke 24).

1.1. The apostles saw Jesus die. They were not aware that He had risen. They were on their way to Emmaus, and they had lost their confidence in His restoring power. They had hoped that He would rescue them (Lk. 24:21). Jesus didn't redeem in cash form. His redemption was purchased by his own crucifixion, his own blood, and not by His power.

1.2. What does this mean for us today? He is assuring us that He has restored everything for us, because He has already paid for it with His blood. But then, when strong winds/storms come, we start to feel burdened and tired. Instead of focusing on Jesus, we find ourselves staring at the waves, storms. Our thoughts start to roll over – will we be the same, emotionally, financially, physically? Will my ministry be the same? Let us believe in God's truth: what we think we lost (confidence, health, boldness, relationship), Jesus is in the business of restoring, repairing, replacing. Let us declare "I am restored, repaired."

2. Jesus Restored John Mark's purpose (Acts 12).

2.1. John Mark was the assistant of Paul. He accompanied Paul and Bernabes in preaching in Cyprus. However, after all their difficulties and challenges with no results, he went back to Jerusalem to his

mother. He abandoned his faith and sought comfort and a safe place with his mother.

2.2. "Cyprus" today is the place where we find ourselves trusting God less and losing hope. With the pandemic, we can not control anything, we are locked down in our homes. It is acceptable to feel down, but we should never give up.

2.3. Jesus restored John Mark's passion and calling. He can definitely do the same for us. He can restore our shattered dreams, put pieces back together, replace what was lost and make it better. We will all come out of this pandemic with a tested, deeper, and lasting confidence. This is the kind of confidence we need to survive this world.

2.4. John Mark is the source of hope for people. He lifts our spirits up. Near the end of Paul's life, he said to Luke "find Mark because he was a tremendous help in my ministry" (2Tim. 4:11).

Conclusion:

The same Jesus who gave hope and faith, is the same Jesus who will nurture it. Jesus can restore, repair, replace whatever we've lost to make ourselves right. What we think is our loss will be the most important story that we will tell one day. Jesus is here. He is not watching if we can make it. He is already here working and restoring. Our best days are here and now, and in the days to come. He is our redeemer, restorer, replacer, and repairer.

Reflection:

1. Are you in a place where you do not have control and feel defeated?
2. Are you feeling like John Mark? Have you lost focus? Do you feel like you can't go further?

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