

Immerse Day 70 :: May 7

The message of the prophets is threefold.

1. You've been living unjustly, ungodly, idolatrous lives.
2. Because of this, you will fall and be conquered by your enemies.
3. But God will not forsake you; He will bring you back home again if you follow Him.

Today, Moses' message is either the reverse or the prequel to this message. Moses says.

1. God will bring you in to your new home if you follow Him.
2. He will prosper you there.
3. When you are wealthy, be careful not to forget that it all came from and because of God.

I think this is an important, weighty, nervous-making message for us today. For we are the wealthy. We are the successful. We are the richly blessed. And this past year has only made that more obvious. COVID has, like dye on a microscope slide, only made the chasm between the rich and poor in our world more glaring. The wealthy, privileged upper class has had relatively no trouble adjusting to a lockdown world. With the technology, wealth, and opportunity available, we've been able to do remote work, remote learning, remote church, stay connected, and weather the job and financial storms that most of the world doesn't have the resources to weather. The Racial Reckoning begun last summer has brought white privilege into the spotlight. And the heavy concentration of COVID risk for the aged population has divided the elderly from the young.

Many are saying that COVID has caused a K-curve in our culture, where the wealthy are getting wealthier (the upper stick of the K) while the poor are becoming poorer (the lower stick of the K) and it is happening simultaneously.

No one can look at the simple numbers and deny that we are not the prophets bringing the message – we are the recipients of the prophets' messages. And Moses'. So what is God's message to us, the rich in modern day America? Be Careful!

With wealth comes anxiety, and an overreaching love of comfort. We seek to avoid suffering in any form, and these things will keep us self-focused. So, God says, be careful. Be careful not to begin thinking your wealth is of your own creation, that it makes you better than others. Your wealth is a gift from God no matter what you think you've done to earn it. So give God the glory for all you have. And be careful. Be careful to see your blessing as a tool God has given you to grow in holiness, not in comfort or fame or safety. Use the blessings God has given to bless others, to bring justice and righteousness to this world, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger and foreigner and refugee.

I stand guilty, not just during COVID but always, of failing in this task. I get too enamored with security and comfort. I get too focused on my own success rather than that of the Kingdom of God. So I pledge today to remember to Be Careful. Will you?