

GOD IS OUR HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

Sermon Transcript
Rev. Adam Nyawo
29th March 2020



The Current Situation

With social distancing and self-isolation being introduced by the government to slow down the Coronavirus, the role of connection has never been more important. Although we are unable to currently meet as churches, God is still present and still working in people's lives and we still have phone/skype, FaceTime/WhatsApp etc to reach out to people, which may well become a lifeline for many.

This has become a reality- at such a time when our world is in trouble. This scenario reminds me of a story about the Pied piper of Hamelin.

Story: The pied Piper of Hamelin...

Once a small town called Hamelin was infested with rats and the people were deeply troubled. Big and small rats everywhere and the people were deeply miserable. They did everything to get rid of the little pests but in vein. It was only one day when a stranger came by- he played a tune from his pipe and all the rats followed him as he led them to the river where they all perished. The people of Hamelin were indeed grateful to the pied piper for bringing a solution to their problem. (their super-hero, saviour)

A city besieged: Our reading from 1 Kings

Intro: This story begins with the besiegement of Samaria. The people of Samaria were in the midst of a great famine, and when Syria decided to besiege or cut off the supply routes; it made the current conditions of the famine worse.

The city has been surrounded by a huge army, no one can get in or get out. Food supplies have been cut, no provisions for the city. People in the city literally starving to death.

Sometimes things are awful!!! Things are really bad...really terrible. Hebrews were not supposed to eat the head of animals, worse donkey (unclean animal). Culturally they were not even supposed to eat Dove droppings, the situation was bad-

King of Israel is passing- the helpless woman cried to him for help,

Vs. 27 The king reprimanded her, **If the LORD does not help you, who will?**

In other words: "am I God?"

The king expresses theological truth, **ultimately only Yahweh provides**. His response expresses both faith and helplessness. He admitted that he had nothing to offer, he could not help. The situation.

The King is pointing the woman where to get help during this difficult time even for himself.

Our own context...(We are besieged...)

The world under lock down...Top of Form

Bottom of Form

we are in serious trouble...from an invisible enemy - the Corona Virus.

We are meant to stay indoors because we are faced with a total lock down. Industries, businesses, schools, churches, everything is on lock down... This situation poses a threat to our economy and may have an effect on our supplies. We have seen supermarket shelves getting empty. Everything is now operating from home...it is scary!

My heart is bleeding for those who have nothing that they can refer to as home.

I am inviting all of us to cry to God for mercy- to make a cry like the cry of Bartimaeus. **"Jesus Son of David, have mercy on us"**! We cry to God for His forgiveness, because we have sinned and aroused His anger, repentance is what we need to do as individuals, as nations to come to God in tears as we cry to Him for mercy. **(So, Bartimaeus was restored)**

We cry to God for the healing of our friends, families, our towns, our nation and the world.

We will put our trust in God. We don't need some Pied piper at this time, we need the hand of God that delivers, to touch and redeem us from this evil enemy Corona virus. Even if the Pied piper were to appear today and asked for help, I guess like the King's reply to the woman he would say- **"If the LORD does not help you, who will?"**

Life can be a total messy, and we ask, 'Where is God?'

In his book 'Christianity Rediscovered', Vincent Donovan says that we make the mistake, as Christians, of thinking we are taking God with us into any given situation. God is already there. Our job is to find out what God is doing and join God in that conversation.

Let me assure you friend, that Jesus is real- let us choose hope, and call unto Him. God will never forsake us. **He is our help in times of trouble.**

In the high and stormy gale- our faith is anchored in Christ. (On Christ the Solid Rock I stand).
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

John Logan
29th March 2020



Let us pray for the needs of our world at this time:

We bring before God all the nations of the world who are struggling to find a way through the coronavirus pandemic.

Lord give strength and wisdom to the World Health Organisation and governments seeking to contain this virus.

Lord give the gift of perseverance to the scientists and doctors all over the world working to find a vaccine.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We bring before God the staff tackling this crisis from the frontline; Doctors, nurses, paramedics and all others who are working around the clock.

Lord give wisdom to these and all involved in tackling the crisis.

We bring before God all those who are involved in playing a key role in keeping the country going. We pray for teachers, teaching assistants and others providing essential childcare for key workers. For shop-workers and delivery drivers and for all those who keep the supply chain going.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We bring before God all those struggling with ill health and particularly those suffering with the coronavirus.

Lord give strength and bring healing of mind, body and spirit

We pray for the families of those who are bereaved at this time. Give comfort and hope in this most difficult time.

We pray for all of us who are isolated at home, particularly those who are alone or shut away. We remember the elderly and those in care homes who are confined to their rooms. For prisoners and young offenders who are locked away in their cells and for the prison staff trying to manage this situation. For the homeless and the lonely, for the hostels and places where they can find rest.

We pray for all who risk losing their jobs, or who do not have enough to eat at this time. For businesses struggling to see their way through this time.

Lord give hope and a way through for us all.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord God, who showed a path of love, gave sight to the blind, healing to the sick and hope to the hopeless. Move in our world at this time.

We ask this and all our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour

Amen