

# Jesus Cares for the Faint And Weak

*Promise: God will renew all who wait upon His promises*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-12; 1 Co 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39

(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, 2/7/21)

*He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. – v. 29*

**Lead In** – Last Sunday Leslie and I went hiking on the Brady Bluff trail at the nearby Parrot Park. As we made our way along the western ridge line to the peak, we could look out over the Mississippi River Valley and across into Minnesota. The moving traffic on highway 61 from our high vantage point looked like little toys. So did the trains. I thought of that as I read in Isaiah 40:22 of “he who sits above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants are like grasshoppers”...

## I. Reminder: Israel's God Is Without Equal

- A. This is the God who created heaven and earth...
- B. The Lord takes no delight in earthly might...
- C. He humbles the proud and mighty...

## II. The Mighty God Cares for the Faint and Weak

- A. Who really is looking after those of low account?
- B. Does the Lord have a preference for the poor?
- C. Better question: Who waits for the Lord?...

## III. The Utter Humility of the Incarnation

- A. Not only to be human, but to take form of servant...
- B. If not a poor beggar, certainly not of the elite...
- C. Suffered bled and died so that we might...

**Parting Shot** – So for those of us who are waiting upon the Lord, just how long might we be waiting? Just when can we expect to have our strength renewed? There is an inner strength and peace that comes to us immediately. But the ultimately renewal in the resurrected life to the Kingdom of God will not take place until the last day. Meanwhile, we cling to the promises and hope...

*Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in. // Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? // The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

**Ps 147:10-11** His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**Ps 73:3-4** For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

**Luke 1:50-53** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

*He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.*

## Isaiah 40:21-31 ESV

*Comfort for God's People*

<sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?” <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

You shall not oppress the poor. God will hear their cry (Ex 22). A portion of the harvest is set aside for the poor and the stranger. (Le 19:). True worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed (Is 58).

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength...*

**Ph 2:7-8** [He] made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Is 53:3** He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**2Co 4:16** Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

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