

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia Dragons CAN Be Beaten 5/11/22

But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you will not be burned, and the flame will not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isa 43:1-3)

English author, Neil Gaiman, tells us, “Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be beaten.” So, it is with God’s word, it is more than true. God’s promise of presence. Christ’s words of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit’s offer of comfort - are MORE than true. They are more than life - they are abundant life. We can believe them and rest in them. With them we can ride out the storm, face our fears, accomplish the impossible, check everything off of our to do list, be the people we were created to be.

We don’t always understand, may not recognize, especially in the dark or during the storm, God promised to always be with us. To protect us. To give us strength. To comfort us. Again, something we don’t understand or always recognize. God’s comfort is not removal of the obstacle. It is not a soft pillow or a warm breeze. God’s comfort is – comfort. It is God being with us and giving us the fortitude to stay afloat in the flood, to face the obstacle, to find the way, to endure the storm, not escape from it.

In this passage from Isaiah, God reminds the Children of Israel, now in exile, He loves them. He has saved them before, bringing them out of Egypt. They are not to fear, for He is near, and He will gather them again to Godself.

Even when we think the dragon is too big, too fierce, too close, too vindictive, too powerful, too victorious, God reminds us it has been defeated in the life, death and resurrection of God’s Son, Jesus the Christ.

The obstacles seem so overpowering. They’ve destroyed before and they will knock us to the ground now. We’re done for. This dragon is too much.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson puts it this way,

*“Our little systems have their day: They have their day and cease to be;
They are but broken lights of Thee. And thou, O Lord, art more than they.”*

That dragon’s very existence is under God’s control. The obstacle, no matter how scary, is not bigger than God. And God has called us by name, we are His, and He has promised to protect us, to be near, to help us to overcome. No matter how scary they look. No matter how loud they huff and puff. No matter how much smoke the blow in our faces. The Lord is more than they.

So, when we are faced with dragons which are splendid in appearance and which strike fear in our hearts, we are told, as was Job, to “stop and consider the wondrous works of God. (Job 37:14)

Yes, we can. Even when the odds are stacked against us, God is for us. No matter what we are facing, remember these words of encouragement, God is with us. God is more than the difficulty we are facing – no matter how scary they appear - and God’s works are wondrous. God has created us and redeemed us. Never forget - God loves us. He has defeated the dragon, and we are His.

Please pray with me:

God of power and might, help us to walk in the assurance of Your victory. No matter the obstacles we face, help us to always remember You have called us by name and we are Yours. We are to not be afraid, but to turn to You, resting in the truth You have defeated the dragon. Thank You for Your unfailing love and for comforting us so we face the dragons of this world, knowing they have no hold over us - for You are more than they. **Amen**