

## **It's Friday but Sunday's Coming**

March 20, 2020

*It's Friday But Sunday's Coming* was a sermon authored by S.M. Lockridge, nationally renowned Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, California from 1953-1993. This sermon has been imitated and used by countless others. The sermon traces the agony and the uncertainty from the cross to the resurrection. From betrayal to hope, from death to life, from despair to joy, from Friday to Sunday.

I am framing that famous sermon title in a bit different manner today.

- It's Friday but Sunday does not look like anything I am used to.
- I already miss the joy of worshipping with many of you. The diversity, creativity and commitment that are present in our congregations.
- I miss the Golden Chain Sunday School Class at Dayton Church of the Brethren. A class divergent in points of view but bonding together for many years.
- I miss Pastor Kevin Daggett's thoughtful and challenging sermons.
- I miss the easy-going comradery of the relationships.
- I miss our choral anthems led ably by Blaine Simmers.
- I miss.....you add to the list.

I have taken worship on Sunday morning for granted. As I face the prospect of not gathering with fellow believers, I am realizing how much of a void that is leaving. It's Friday but it is unclear what Sunday looks like.

For many of you living on Friday means:

- Changing the way in which you work or facing cutbacks at your place of work
- Scrambling for childcare
- Caring for elderly parents in new ways
- Facing social isolation
- Facing the challenge of diminished resources
- For pastors it has meant scrambling to redefine their role. What does one do when Sunday morning is in a state of flux? This is no easy journey.

Scripture is filled with laments and prayers from people who were crossing the bridge from Friday to Sunday. Laments and cries for assistance fill its pages. The book of Lamentations grieves the loss and destruction of the temple and Jerusalem. "My groans are many and my heart is faint" Lamentations 1:22b, NIV.

God's people are forever changed when they face this journey with openness of spirit and fierce commitment. We must not be too quick to determine what Sunday will look like. Rather allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and reshape our thinking amid the very real agony.

What if Sunday sees a deepening of faith commitment to our Lord and each other, the formation of a tender and compassionate spirit, a hunger for gathering and hearing the Word of the Lord, a deepening of desire to be salt and light to our neighbors and neighborhoods and....

Folks, as I listen to the honest wrestling's of the believers of the Shenandoah District it seems to me that the stirrings of Sunday coming are among us. Let's continue to love, care and exhort each other as we listen for the shape of Sunday's to come. Friday is here but Sunday is coming.....

Amen

Blessings to all,  
District Executive Minister  
John Jantzi