

Keep the Faith?
Matthew 15:21-28

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the words of my mouth and the ears of our hearts be open to the word of God this day. AMEN.

We live in a world of anxiety. The news runs on anxiety. What news agency doesn't use the term breaking news to catch people's interest now a days. Everything is breaking news. There is a fire, a car wreck, a civil war breaks out, the severe heat is killing dozens across the country, a shooting rampage in Norway, there is storms and floods, droughts and diseases, Government shut down, companies closing, high unemployment, market is crashing, banks are foreclosing. Everything and anything can happen in an instant. You must be ready, be on the edge of your seat, be prepared, be anticipating, be anxious.

TV shows and movies are based on that theory, there is a killer on the loose, the forensics have given up breaking clues, the detectives have worked the case, now the police have their guns drawn and they are moving into to surround the suspect, what will happen next – a commercial.

Video games and amusement parks thrive on this same idea. The rush of the heart beat, the edge of your seat thrill, the not knowing what is around the next bend, what could and might happen. It is all about that anxiety.

Our world is filled with anxiety, some of it doesn't even have to be edge of your seat drama. We live in anxious times when we worry about our health and if we have enough insurance and money to get by. We worry about our children when we hear of drugs and alcohol and premarital sex becoming the norm amongst teenagers. We worry about taxes, will they increase, will we have enough to pay for them. We worry about our jobs and businesses, will it continue, can it overcome and grow, will it still be there in a year or in five years. Is my retirement funds safe. We worry because we live in anxious times.

It is in such a time as this that St. Paul could have been writing the words of Romans 8. They ring true and clear now in our world in our lives just as they did back in his world of the 1st century empire.

“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.” And then, “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, not things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all of creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What powerful words, what inspiring message given that drives right through all the hardship, worries, anxieties of this world and shows us the very promise of God. It is God's word through which we find the meaning. It rings the word that is needed. Not of disasters, wars, pain, fear, shame, guilt, but of hope, that very hope that can never be taken away and never separated from us. This is the Gospel in which Paul says that whatever condition, whatever our status in life, whatever our situation is, whatever cross you are bearing, whatever is going on, God is with you, and God is for you.

May the peace and Grace of God be with you this day and throughout the week to come.
AMEN.