Daily Devotion #105

An Imperishable Inheritance

*1 Peter 1:3-5 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

In 1979 James Taylor wrote and sang a song called Millworker. The song describes a young woman who married a man who was a drunk and who had left her with three children to care for. To make ends meet, she took a job in a mill doing the same boring job, day after day. She would daydream about a better life, back when she was a child, when things were simpler. But she would always come out of that daydream to find herself stuck in a job that had no meaning or purpose and always wishing she had a better chance at life.

Sad song. But a very realistic one for most people. Those lyrics describe many of the hard-working people throughout the ages. People who wish for a better life but find themselves stuck, either by chance or bad choices they made in life. For them, each day is a drag with no purpose but to do the same thing day after day, hoping to make enough to put food on the table and have some semblance of life.

And many of God’s people have found themselves in life just the same way. Doing the same thing day after day. But the difference is that we have a better hope, a real hope. A hope that has eternal significance, because we know that our hope will turn into reality.

Our hope is based not in what we have/don’t have or have done/not done in this life, but on what Jesus has done for us. You and I, even as God’s people, have also made many mistakes that have had great ramifications for our lives. We have been stuck in situations that we wish had never happened. We have found ourselves going through the motions of the day-to-day routine that never seems to have an end. For us, the work we do day after day has eternal significance, not because we pick up the hammer or the pencil or hit the computer keys to make our living, but because we know that those jobs put us in proximity of other people, people just like this millworker James Taylor wrote about. For us, we know that God has rescued us out of the daily grind spiritually so that we can offer hope to those who have no lasting hope.

When Peter wrote these words, he was writing to a group of Christians who were going through the most challenging time of their lives. They were not just under the threat of a long, exhausting day with blood sweat and tears poured out on the floor, but they were suffering under the threat of life from Nero. The cruel, vindictive, emotionally and spiritually sick dictator of Rome.

From a human perspective life was horrible. There was no end to their drudgery. But Peter reminded them of what was waiting for them - an imperishable, eternal home reserved just for them and all who follow Christ as Lord and Master of their lives. God was using Peter to put hope in their hearts so they would not focus on the things of this life, but on what is coming - the great and marvelous prize of living with their eternal God.

Loved ones, each day can be a drag if we focus on what we must do or have to do or on what we have or don’t have. Do your best to keep your focus on what is coming. And while you are focusing on what is coming, be the best you can be for yourself, your family and those around you. Our world is spiritually losing ground fast. People have little to no hope in anything other than what is in front of them or what they hope their hard work will buy for them. But you have the hope of a home that never fades away. Share that hope with someone today. You can be the instrument that helps change a life for eternity.