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NEWS & EVENTS – JUNE 2022

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“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars, stretching his wings toward the south?” Job 39:26

It’s a hard place to be on the receiving end of multiple questions when someone in a position of authority knows all the answers and you don’t. Usually this is called a teachable moment, provided you’re in a teachable place in your life. When God is asking a question, He is not seeking information. He knows the answer. Job was in that kind of teachable place when he was out of place with the Most High God. If you study the story of Job, it is revealed that his suffering was inflicted in ways Job couldn’t understand. Job slipped into a common human condition of interrogating God. I don’t think it’s out of order to ask God why some things are happening to us. The Bible reveals many of those kinds of questions. Human beings are meaning makers. We seek to know why things are happening. But it is out of order to move into an accusatory position with God and make assumptions about God’s intentions. Whether Job was talking with his friends, or with God, he wanted to know why his trouble was happening. He goes through a transformation from being known as *a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil* (this is what God says about him in chapter 2) to one who is questioned by God in chapter 40, *“Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.”* Reproving God exhibits a character flaw of the accuser that God contends with in chapters 1 & 2. The enemy of our souls is quick to use suffering as a battlefield to see God-fearing people changed into people who contend with the Almighty. It can happen to faithful people when calamity suddenly comes upon us. We choose our response. Who will we blame for the trials of pain and suffering? Who, or what, will we trust as we endure it?

Let’s consider our understanding of the hawk. Most of the time when I see one, it’s soaring aloft, gliding through the air. I haven’t thought much about its design until recently when I observed one *hovering*. A hovering hawk. Like a hummingbird...or a helicopter. It seemed that the hawk was intently looking upon whatever was capturing its interest down below. Or whatever was about to be captured by its interest! As I considered my understanding of the hawk as it soars, I was amazed at its ability to hover. It seemed contrary to its nature until I was reminded of things I don’t fully understand. Take for example the helicopter, or the helicopter parent. Maybe you’ve heard this phrase used to describe a parent that is overly indulgent and protective in their child’s welfare and becoming increasingly obsessive and controlling, even to their detriment. The result is that the child matures without learning how to negotiate obstacles and overcome problems that occur. The helicopter parent can certainly be guilty of doing a good thing the wrong way.

Growing into maturity as a child of God I can understand how the Most High God is the ultimate hovering kind of parent. He does all good things the right way. Like a hovering hawk He is often in the background, watching with a heavenly overview and at the same time so near as the next breath we take. His counsel and guidance is readily available. Knowing His great love for His children it must be hard for God to watch us make wrong choices and live through the consequences. Some suffering might be self-inflicted. Sometimes we might be the target of the devil’s darts and flaming arrows. In both scenarios the Lord God Almighty is sovereign in His care for us. I get the sense that He is hovering...like a hawk...intently watching...ready to intervene into our lives when Satan’s attacks threaten to overwhelm and overcome. When we cry out to be rescued from the mess we’ve made, the One who soars High swoops low. Often when I leave the house in the morning, I can hear both the cry of the hawk, as well as the coo of the dove. The sounds remind me of how God makes Himself known through what He has made. The Spirit of God testifies that He is the source of my protection and His presence is where I find true peace. This is especially comforting to realize that God lives to bring order out of disorder. I have been captured by God as He transforms my mess into His miracle. When I’m thinking that the darkness of this present age is getting darker, and it’s harder to live as an ambassador of Light, here’s another favorite *hovering* Scripture passage.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Gen 1:1-5 ESV)

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam