
Renew: Returning the Heartbeat of Hope

“Renewing Real Life, part 2”

Psalm 2:1-12

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“God’s patience is not placidity, any more than his fierce anger is loss of control, his laughter cruelty or his pity sentimentality. When his moment comes for judgment, in any given case, it will be by definition beyond appeasing or postponing.” - Derek Kidner

“If God were not angry at injustice and deception and did not make a final end to violence, that God would not be worthy of worship . . . If I don’t believe that there is a God who will eventually put all things right, I will take up the sword and will be sucked into the endless vortex of retaliation. Only if I am sure that there’s a God who will right all wrongs and settle all accounts perfectly do I have the power to refrain.” - Miroslav Volf

“Think how we feel when we see someone we love ravaged by unwise actions or relationships. Do we respond with benign tolerance as we might towards strangers? Far from it . . . Anger isn’t the opposite of love. Hate is, and the final form of hate is indifference . . . God’s wrath is not a cranky explosion, but his settled opposition to the cancer . . . which is eating out the insides of the human race he loves with his whole being.” - Rebecca Manley Pippert

*“He left His Father’s throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love; and bled for Adam’s helpless race.
‘Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O, my God, it found out me!
Amazing Love, how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” - Charles Wesley*

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- Psalm One was a reality check for each human on an individual basis to confront the motives, fruit, and destiny of the path we walk in this life.
 - How does Psalm 2 compare?
 - What sort of reality check does it present us with? Why?
- One of the consolations of Psalm 2 is the emphasis upon and assurance of God’s place on the throne.
 - What about this strange season we are living in has called that into question for you? For those around you? For the larger culture?
 - In a world that does not and is not working “right”, are you driven to expect and treasure God’s kingship? Are you driven to resist and question it?
 - What are the consequences emotionally, relationally, and practically for each alternative?
- How would you describe the portrait of God this psalm paints?
 - What features are alarming? What are expected and enjoyed?
 - How do you hold in proper balance and tension the justice of God and his redemptive grace?
 - How does Psalm 2 bear each of those out? How do Derek Kidner and Miroslav Volf’s insight inform and help the balance and tension?
- While God sets His Anointed One on His Holy Hill in response to the raging nations, the sermon asserted that the Lord’s Anointed was not content to remain but “let His Father’s Throne above”.
 - Name some of the ways this psalm points to and reflects the work of Jesus.
- Psalm 2 ends with the promise of blessing for anyone who takes refuge in the Lord.
 - Why is there no refuge *from* the Lord and only refuge *in* the Lord? How do you take refuge?