

Our Mighty God

Introduction:

This morning our Advent theme is “our Mighty God” from **Isa 9:6 - For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** What an awesome passage of Scripture directing our thoughts and lives towards the King of Kings, our Messiah and Saviour Jesus Christ. The past few months we have been studying the “Kingdom of God”. This passage of Scripture highlights in detail the King of the Kingdom and **Isa 9:7** tells us – “**of the increase of his government (or Kingdom) and peace there will be no end...**”

I want to begin this morning by asking you a few questions.

- Have you ever been lost?
- Have you ever been unable to pay your bills?
- Have you ever found yourself at the mercy of someone else?
- Have you ever been stuck in a relational situation that you needed to be truly rescued?

All of us can identify to some degree with these questions. Barry Buzza told us a story at convention of getting lost in BC and taking a high mountain road. He was following his cars’ GPS navigation system. The only problem was the GPS didn’t tell him the higher he got the more snow he would encounter and soon he found himself stuck and in need of a tow truck. Sometimes our GPS leads us astray. Sometimes we don’t have enough money to pay the bills or sometimes we have been too materialistic; materialism can be rampant with Christmas approaching – so be wise. Being at the mercy of someone else and needing help is an awkward place to be, after all we should be able to take care of ourselves. Probably one of the most difficult places to be is in relational breakdown or stress. Mentally, emotionally and spiritually we find ourselves feeling defensive or rejected and struggle to find the unity of the spirit and the peace of God.

We need to remember that it is easy to get lost or shipwrecked in some form or fashion, not just physically but also spiritually. There are times in my life when this has happened to me and I have cried out for a Saviour, someone who could rescue me. The same is true for each and every person here today.

Isa 9:6 tells us of the coming Christ hundreds of years before his birth. This child birth and life would not be ordinary, but extraordinary. Isaiah describes this person – Jesus Christ as our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

This morning we will look at Christ as our Mighty God who is Mighty guide, provide, rescue and restore your life to his fullest purpose for you.

He knows where you are right now:

We are all on a journey in life both physically and spiritually. My journey began in Saskatoon, the place of my birth, and now I find myself back home. Geographically, I have been all over the world and had some amazing adventures. Along the way Christ found me wandering physically in London England and brought me into a brand new journey with him spiritually. Something similar can be said of your life's journey.

He knows what roads you and I have traveled. He knows what turns we have made and the dead end streets we have been down. He knows when our GPS has failed us and we are lost and in need of help. Jesus knows where you are right now and how you came to be here, both physically and spiritually.

PSALM 23

The LORD The Shepherd of His People

A Psalm of David.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**
- 3 He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.**
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.**
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.**

He knows what roads you have traveled and he knows what turns you have made, good and bad he still loves you. He still desires to guide you through life. Jesus knows where you are right now. He doesn't need a search party with GPS to find you. He knows where you are right now because He is a Mighty God. Not only does he know where you are right now, he also knows what you need right now to move forward in your journey. This leads us to the next point, he is our provider and he is mighty in his provisions toward his people.

He knows what you need right now:

Last week we heard the amazing testimony of Daniel and Doris Lobo and how God provided for them in so many wonderful ways. The provision of God can touch our hearts so personally and intimately that we become undone. We laugh, we cry and we give thanksgiving back to him God is Mighty and desires to prove himself to his sons and daughters.

In order to have God as our Mighty Provider, we need to place ourselves beyond our own abilities. In other words, if you are self-sufficient you don't really need God all that much; all your needs are provided. In order to receive from our Mighty God we need to be willing to let go of our pride and receive.

How do we do this? We need to step beyond our comfort zones and our proud ability to provide for ourselves. Don't take this wrong, we all need to work hard for that is a Biblical principle. However, there are times in the journey of life that we need to know our Mighty God as our Mighty Provider.

The Scriptures are full of examples of God providing in awesome and mighty ways.

- Deliverance out of bondage and Egypt for the Israelites.
- Manna and quail in the wilderness.
- Forgiveness of sin for King David.
- Word of the Lord through the prophets.
- Our Messiah and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- Healing and deliverance during Jesus' ministry.
- Sight to Paul after he was blinded.

The question remains, what do you need right now? Can you and I let go of our pride and self-sufficiency to receive from our Mighty God. He knows the journey we are all on and he loves to provide for his children. None of us deserve his provision but none-the-less he is longing to prove himself Mighty on behalf of his church. Someone has said, *"God loves us just as we are – but he loves us to much to leave us that way."* God knows what we need right now and he is willing to Provide. What a Mighty God we have!

He knows how to rescue you right now:

Let me ask you a question or two. How many of you have tried to be good or strong in a situation? How many of you have tried to do the right thing? We all have and yet there are times like me, we have fallen flat on our faces; whether in our personal lives overcoming bondages or brokenness, or in parenting, or maybe a financial decision went wrong.

Let me tell you a story. On Nov 26th 2006 James Kim, his wife and two daughters were traveling from their home in San Francisco to a resort in Gold Beach Oregon. Through a series of unfortunate events the family ended up getting stuck in the snowy mountains of southwest Oregon. Search efforts began for the stranded family on Nov 30th and on Dec 2nd James went to look for help. On Dec 4th his wife and

children were found by a local helicopter pilot. James never found help and his body was found on Dec 6th. James Kim tried to do the right thing. He not only wanted to save himself – but he also wanted to save his wife and two little girls. But despite his great efforts he failed. His wife and daughters were saved by the efforts of the rescuers. His efforts fell short even though he gave it his all. One of the rescue leaders called James' effort "superhuman" – but it still did not save his family. When it comes to being “rescued” or saved we are at the mercy of someone else.

Maybe there are areas of our lives that we are in need of rescue. Sometimes those areas are too hurtful to mention so we simply avoid the problem. However, at other times we are unable to hide the situation because it has affected our emotional or mental health. We can try to look good on the outside yet God knows right where we are at. Despite all our effort and do-gooding we seem to fall short of the rescue we need.

Look at what the Message Bible says about the idea that we can save ourselves:

“Saving is all His (God’s) idea, and all His work. All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. It’s God’s gift from start to finish! We don’t play the major role. If we did, we’d probably go around bragging that we’d done the whole thing!” Ephesians 2:8-9 (MSG)

God knows our efforts and he knows how hard we have tried. But only he can rescue or save us. It doesn't matter how good you have been - you still need a Saviour. He is our Mighty God who rescues us from the struggles and challenges of life.

He knows how to restore you right now:

Our Mighty God not only knows how to rescue us which can happen in a moment of time but he also knows how to restore us which takes a process of time. I know that it is easier to be rescued than restored. Restoration is much like the process of sanctification whereby God makes us holy as he is holy. Restoration involves:

- Restoring something to a former condition; in our case to be like Adam or Eve before the fall.
- Restoring involves a model made to resemble or represent something in its original condition.
- Reinstatement, re-establishment, reinstallation, refurbishment, renovation, repair, renewal; all of these words to some degree describe restoration.

Now that we have been rescued by our Mighty God and Saviour Jesus Christ, what are some areas he wants to restore in our lives? There is a marvelous verse found in Isa 61:1-3 and its New Testament reference by Jesus in **Luke 4:18-19 – 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”**

The process of restoration touches areas in our lives of poverty and distress. Jesus does not stop there but desires to go on and heal our broken hearts. What has broken your heart over the years past or the days present? Liberty to the captives; what is holding you captive? Recovery of sight to the blind; what areas of life are we blinded by the enemy or our own deception? Jesus came to bring freedom to the oppressed because he is our Mighty God.

It is time to allow our Mighty God to restore those areas of our lives that have remained hidden and protected due to hurt or pain or shame and blame. The Lord desires to place his peace and freedom in our hearts and give us the favour of the Lord.

In Conclusion:

This morning God wants to engage us with his Mighty Presence. Whether we need guidance at this time in our lives and families or provision for the journey we are on, God desires to prove himself Mighty. Others of us may need to be rescued from enemies that are too powerful for us to endure. Just like King David in **Psalm 18:16 – 19 - He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. 17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. 18 They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. 19 He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.** David experienced the rescuing power of God which brought forth this inspiring Psalm.

However, we know that King David also experienced the process of restoration when Nathan the Prophet came to rebuke him for his sin. In this case David penned Psalm 51 where he asks for God to have mercy on him and show him God's Mighty unfailing love. Or how about verses 10-12

- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Let's end this morning with the worship song Mighty to Save...