

Thought for the Day 23/04/2020

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”
(Joshua 1:9)

Have you been able to watch any of the *Spring Harvest at Home* programmes? They are all available on *youtube* and I would encourage you especially to watch the daily devotionals by Pete Greig who leads the 24/7 prayer initiative. His second devotional is amazing and my thought for the day is shamelessly borrowed from that programme! It's this: the Chinese word for '**crisis**' is made up of two characters: one that means '**danger**' and the other that means '**opportunity**'. Isn't that an astounding thought? We are living in a time of crisis with Covid-19, and thinking about that from a Christian point of view, that means that we need courage to face the *danger* of this virus, and also it means that we have an *opportunity* to shine as believers in Jesus Christ.

That's what the Lord says to Joshua here as the Israelites prepare to cross the Jordan into the land God has promised them. **Be strong and courageous**. There they are in Joshua chapter one, the people of God are on the east side of the river Jordan, and you can imagine them in their millions as they look across the river to see Canaan, the Promised Land, the land that Moses himself was never allowed to enter. You can imagine their new leader, Joshua, gearing the armies of the tribes of Israel up for what is to come...to possess the land that was promised to their great forefather Abraham. This is the time. This is the place. This is the frontline of the battle. If Hollywood was going to make an epic blockbuster about bravery and strength and courage, this is the story...**Be strong and courageous**.

And that's what the Lord says to His church throughout the world today – and that includes you and me: **Be strong and courageous!** Do not be afraid and do not be discouraged when the enemy seems overwhelming, in our case an enemy we cannot even see...**be strong and courageous**. Yes, we're living at a time of crisis, but that word means both danger and opportunity. Yes, we need to abide by the rules the Government has laid down for the good of everyone because this virus is dangerous, but God also wants us, calls us, beckons us to shine for Him as beacons of hope in a dark world.

Towards the end of his devotional, Pete Greig says this: '**Through this season, God wants to deepen you, not diminish you; He wants to embolden you and not terrify you; He wants the pressure of this crisis to create diamonds in your character.**'

That is so true! May you know the courage and the strength of God today.

Remember you can send your prayer request to:

Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org Or ring: (01743) 583215

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