

Sermon: On all your journeys, 25.6. 2023, Jakub Mrázek (Proverbs 3,1-10)

1. Summer and holidays

We usually expect that summertime will bring us some rest and relaxation. Personally I have to say that I feel that very strongly in the last 3 weeks. I really need to “recharge my batteries”. I am looking forward to some time off where I would be able to relax in the sun, enjoy the present moment and not think about all the worries that I have. I wish to restore my life energy. I want to experience peace. I would like to enjoy the rest that I deserve, because I have worked very hard all year (grace and appreciation). I need to restore my health, vitality. And I am also looking forward to eating and drinking richly.

John 10,10 *Jesus said „I have come so that they may have life and have it in greater measure.”*
(Restoration of harmony)

2. Ideal circumstances?

After many years, we are going to spend our family vacation after the scout camp that I organize. It means that my big holiday mission will be already finished and a new school year will be still ahead. I love these circumstances. I can really rest and relax. I look for that very much. Maybe you are in the same situation. You look forward to finally resting, or doing something, or experiencing something - something that you couldn't do during the school year. Maybe you are also looking forward to the perfect circumstances...

But what if there is something more than just “perfect circumstances”? We read in the book of Proverbs in Bible:

Proverb 3

5 Put all your hope in God, not looking to your reason for support. 6 In all your ways give ear to him, and he will make straight your footsteps.

You can hope in “ideal” circumstances, or you can do something specific.

3. The recipe for he God's restoration:

You can HOPE in God with all your heart in all your ways. You can give ear to him and then there will be a straight way to whatever you really need.

What does it mean that God **will make straight your footsteps?**

Some of you are experiencing a difficult situation these days. You are bothered by the fact that you need to have more participants at a Fusion summer camp. You are worried that you won't practice complicated songs, or you won't have enough money from participation fees and so on. But you can hope in God - he will make your way straight - not to your goals but to his. You should be ready that probably your goals will probably not be met - but trust in God. He has his plans. If you open your heart You can see not your goals but his.

Maybe you plan to go back home to Ukraine during the summer. Maybe you planned to go back home for good but this option is still not open. God understands your heart. He knows what you desire. God knows about you either you are on a path that you desire or you have been forced to walk your current path. But you can give ear to God on all your paths no matter the circumstances. You can always do something to reach your true Home.

Isaiah 55,8-9: 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, or your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

4. What can I do about it?

In all your ways give ear to him - It means we understand God, experience God.

We will go through the Bible passage Proverbs 3, 1-10.

How can I experience God in everyday situations?

1 My son, keep my teaching in your memory, and my rules in your heart:

2 For they will give you increase of days, years of life, and peace.

You should read spiritual literature. You should fill your heart with God. It is going to change the way you think

– which increases the chances of survival, but also heals your emotions (peace).

3 Let not mercy and good faith go from you; let them be hanging round your neck, recorded on your heart;

4 So you will have grace and a good name in the eyes of God and men.

Be full of mercy to yourself and to others. Especially when you talk. Think kindly of yourself. Speak about others nicely. Sometimes you will probably lose patience. Sometimes you may feel like you want to let go of the assigned task. But when it comes - remember Jesus. He loves you unconditionally and truly. You should focus on Jesus, not on yourself. This is the only way to get what you desire most - appreciation and grace from God and people.

5 Put all your hope in God, not looking to your reason for support.

6 In all your ways give ear to him, and he will make straight your footsteps.

When you make your own plans, you should remember that your plans aren't the best and God can change them anytime to be exactly what you need to learn to trust him. When Your plans fall apart or go off course, thank God for straightening Your path.

7 Put no high value on your wisdom: let the fear of the Lord be before you, and keep yourself from evil:

8 This will give strength to your flesh, and new life to your bones.

Have great respect for God. Your life is not yours but His. He redeemed you. If you open yourself to evil you ruin something good that belongs to God. On the other hand, if you protect yourself from these things, it will give your body health and freshness!

9 Give honour to the Lord with your wealth, and with the first-fruits of all your increase:

10 So your store-houses will be full of grain, and your vessels overflowing with new wine.

Accept everything you have (strength, money, things,..) with great joy. Enjoy everything you have but share it with others. Don't forget to always share generously with others. Then you will be blessed.

5. What is the result?

5 Put all your hope in God, not looking to your reason for support.

6 In all your ways give ear to him, and he will make straight your footsteps.

If you know the Lord in this way, you will always know what to say, how to react, what to do, what not to do and how to serve others.

Your life will become a magnet that draws other people to God.