

1. THE BLESSING OF JACHYM NOVOTNY

PSALM 139:13-16

Monica and Michael have brought their child, their son Jachym, into our midst today; that we may rejoice with them, celebrate with them, delight in their new life. We also thank God for Jáchym and ask God's blessing on him.

It is I who formed you, Jáchym. Jachym, you are wonderfully made! I know your soul well. I know every inch of your body, literally every bone. Jáchym - I have been paying attention to you from the beginning, I care about you and I have your life's journey in front of my eyes!

So, Moni and Misha, do you believe that Jáchym is gifted with life by God and entrusted to you to take care of him with love?

PSALM 139:23-24

King David knew well that he needed to keep coming back to God asking Him - am I walking in the way You have prepared for me?

Moni and Misha - do you promise to be guides and strength for Jachym on His path? That you will guide and nurture him in the fear and love of God? Will you pray for him, set an example with your life, and allow him to grow up in the midst of the community of God's people? If so, answer: With confidence in God's help, we promise.

2. SERMON

1. **The new little man** - the tension between dreams and future reality

It's always beautiful when a new person comes into the world! It fills us with wonder and hope that this life will work out, that it will definitely be the one! We have dreams and great hope (sometimes unhealthy) - I couldn't do a lot of things - but He sure can! But life will show that we live in constant tension between the ideal and the reality.

2. Tent or dwelling - How to deal with this tension? Can we give this tension the right role so that we don't have to abandon our ideals, but at the same time can we bear the fact that they are hard to achieve?

2 Corinthians 5.1

The apostle Paul compared our life here on earth to a tent, while we long for a real home, a dwelling place, a solid house. We are looking for security, something to keep us safe, but a tent can't do it! The only real protection is very solid walls! A tent is not a real home. The TENSION is actually telling us - YOU ARE!!! I long for a real home where there is safety, peace and tranquility.

2 Corinthians 5:2-4

Paul even says that we groan with longing and heaviness because we feel how big the gap is between where we long to be and where we are. We feel naked and vulnerable

THAT TENSION is actually telling us - you need saving! You need someone who will be close to you and have you in their sight and in their heart! In him is the real home that is missing here. THAT TENSION is actually telling us that we long for eternal life where death (not physical, but relational or spiritual) has no say!!! We want to be absorbed in real life! That is why we are so moved when we see a new life - a little child. It is so far from death, it is beautiful and perfect, all hopes are before it . . .

You must be born again

A very old man was very eager to meet Jesus. He devoted his whole life to seeking a way, a way "to enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Yet he still felt that something was missing. With Jesus he felt that whiff of the

Kingdom of God, the fulfillment of the longing under which he groaned. The man's name was Nicodemus, and Jesus said to him: *John 3:7 You must be born again.*

THAT TENSION, THAT SOUL is telling you that you must be born again! You need a NEW BEGINNING! You need a new start, a new foundation, because you can hardly build a solid house on a tent foundation.

What we see when we look at the little child - at Jachym - is the promise of a new and true life - but even Jachym cannot be shielded from all suffering, and even he will NOT be perfect. God loves to do new things! But even Jachym will have to go through his falls and his repentance so that he can shout with enthusiasm - God has born me again!, He has saved me!, He has lifted me up!!! (the meaning of the name Jachym).

3. BAPTISM

There are three steps on how this can happen (being born again) and how it can happen every other day of your life.

1. Have you given up living without God, living under the rule of sin and evil? That's the way under the water. Saying goodbye to the old way of life. Yes, the tent is not my real home. I no longer belong to the earth, I belong to God.
2. You receive the Holy Spirit. I am born again - not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. What changes is where I draw my strength from, what is my source, who I am. I no longer have to rely on my own reason, my own understanding, but I can be led by the Spirit of God.
3. As a disciple of Christ, do you want to live a new life that pleases God? In Christ is my new life and He is my friend, guide, model, teacher and Lord. To walk in His way is my joy and God's joy!

NEW LIFE

Paul says in the Bible: *2 Corinthians, verse 5 "For as we undergo more of the pain which Christ underwent, so through Christ does our comfort become greater."*

No, we're not going to heaven right away. We won't immediately make all our troubles go away, or even stop failing. But the difference is that as long as our hope was only earthly, we dealt with our pains and failures in earthly ways and with earthly resources. Those who are ALE in Christ have a NEW starting point (my goal is not here on earth, but in heaven), have NEW resources (God's love and acceptance, forgiveness and grace, the help of the Holy Spirit), and also NEW perspectives on their situation (they deal with their life, various problems, situations the way Christ would).

Three challenges:

Do you feel some longing that you can't find the answer to? A contradiction between how you live and how you want to live? Explore, wonder if the answer is not with Christ. You can come to Him at any time, even today, reconcile with Him and accept Him as the One who will transform your life.

Maybe you did that a long time ago and have been "in Christ" for a long time. It's just that the years of living in that temporary tent have caused you to settle in a lot. But the desire is definitely there, just try to reawaken it, you can look for New Things with Christ again! You can think of each new morning as a kind of baptism - I'm leaving the old behind, giving up my life without God, receiving the Holy Spirit, and wanting to live a life that pleases the Lord (and me).

The third challenge is for all of us. As a church we need this attitude too - not to dwell, not to look at the past, not to be overwhelmed by the present (even if we are busy), but to open ourselves to God and be ready that He wants to work in us all the time New life, new things, new experiences, new knowledge. New building, new strengthening. New filling with the Spirit.