

IN FOCUS FOR SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2020

TERRIBLE AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Psalm 57

Fear can leave us frozen. We know all the reasons to be afraid – everything that’s hurt us in the past, everything that could easily do so again. So sometimes we’re stuck – unable to go back; too afraid to move forward. ***I just can’t do it. I’m not smart enough, strong enough, or brave enough to handle being hurt like that again.***

I’m captivated by how author Frederick Buechner describes God’s grace: “Here is the world. Terrible and beautiful things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you.”

Terrible things will happen. In our world, hurting people hurt other people, often terribly. Like the psalmist David, we carry our own stories of when evil surrounded us, when, like “ravenous beasts, others wounded us, so we grieve; we cry out.

But because God is with us, *beautiful things* can happen too. As we turn to Him with our hurts and fears, we find ourselves carried by a love far greater than anyone’s power to harm us, a love so deep it fills the skies. Even when disaster rages around us, His love is a solid refuge where our hearts find healing. Until ONE DAY, we’ll find ourselves awakening to renewed courage, ready to greet the day with a song of His faithfulness.

- *Monica Brands, Our Daily Bread, 2020*

PRAYER:

Healer and Redeemer, thank You for holding us and healing us with Your endless love. Help us find in Your love the courage to follow You and share Your love with those around us. As we go through these critical times, make us see that from terrible things, You can turn them into beautiful moments of seeing Your healing power and endless compassion at work.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.