

10-30-20

Last night I dreamed that I followed the creek near our house all the way to its source. It involved an icy, rocky pass with ropes and crampons and I recalled having considered the trek in the past but didn't go. Friends had possessed the courage it took but I did not. Until now. In my dream I braved the pass and followed the creek all the way to its source, an alpine spring of pure delight.

Later, still in the dream, Emma and I were down in town where the creek passed through peoples' houses. But it had clearly been forgotten, or deprioritized. Old walls and bricks and building materials had fallen into and partially blocked the stream. My daughter and I were helping remove the blockages.

Last weekend Blaine and Anthony

asked our church, in part, what are you afraid of? A frequent answer was civil unrest.

During a time when acute crisis seems more realistic in its potential impact on our daily lives than ever, and could be coming quickly, we must not let fear drive us.

Unchecked fear is fuel on the fire of crisis. Many of us have an inclination to prepare right now which can be very good — IF we are preparing to be a part of the mission of Jesus, rather than the mission of fear. Self-preservation is easy but insufficient.

Jesus was clear — a flood is coming. Those who build their life upon hearing and obeying his word will be just fine when it comes. We build our lives on so much that is easy and insufficient though. Horses, chariots, food and water supplies, ammo and

vain hope for deliverance. Flesh gives birth to more flesh, but the Spirit gives life. As Jason Upton says "I built my life upon a stone so rarely built upon I feel quite foolish and naive." The same could be said of the spring of your union with Christ, the only source of true life.

As I contemplated the dream about having the courage to seek the source and unblock the spring in others' dwellings, God began to speak to me about mercy. He said "I am still enthroned between the Cherubim. Righteousness and Justice are the foundations of my throne but my seat is still called mercy." Then he took me to Ezekiel 47 where the temple springs a leak and water flows out of the door and increases in depth until it flows to the dead sea until it is teeming with life. There God highlighted several things to me:

Everything will live where the river goes.

(vs 9) Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scriptures said, From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." The offer of Jesus Christ is still life. And not a small, partially satisfying kind. The kind that makes you and I, as we believe, flow with abundance more than enough, increasing in depth until you can swim in it, fish along the bank, and turn salt water sweet. Their fish will be according to their kinds... (vs 10)

A clear call back to genesis. The life God offers is a restoration of the unspoiled abundant wild creation: the delight of Eden. And by the river... will grow all trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month because the water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing. (vs 12) A clear call forward to the renewal of all

things where (Rev 22) "he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of the street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

We live between two Edens, with Eden available to those of us who dare to be foolish and naive enough to drink from it. The original, and now spoiled, delight (the literal meaning of Eden) of God's original creation, the coming restored delight at Jesus' return, and most emphatically for this hour: the delight of life in the Spirit for all who would take Jesus up on his promise.

To my fellow fools of delight: let us resource ourselves for this flood, not as the world does, for "curved is the man who makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from -

the Lord. For he will be like a bush in the desert, and will not see when prosperity comes..." (Jer. 17:9)

The most important resource you have is the spring of your life in Christ. Dare to go to it often. "Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16)

If you are materially poor and physically weak you may still have the most to offer in the coming time of need. The riches of mercy that provides from abundance into scarcity, the foolishness of delight and generosity without counting the cost that are the way of the people of Eden are the fruit for food and the leaves for healing that are the substance of a kingdom that is lost, returning, and yet still here and now in the mercy of those who believe in the source, who were once not a people

but now are God's people, who once had not received mercy, but now have received mercy. Fruit and leaves. Food and healing. In a season where many are asking "will I have enough?" and will I be ok?" how can we prepare to offer the "food that the world knows not of" and the confidence that through many tribulations we enter the kingdom?

Anthony & Blake led us to simply do the following: submit our resources to Jesus as his active agents in the restoration of delight by a serene God how we can be a blessing to...

Our neighbours?

Our church?

Our city?

Delight, hear, and obey!

- Stu Mead