



CONCORD
SUNDAY
SCHOOL

LECTIONARY
LESSON 13

SUNDAY,
MARCH 29, 2020

Psalm 130 NRSV

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

17 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Today's lesson will focus on **waiting on the Lord**.

Read the scripture out loud.

Discuss with someone in your home. What was the last thing that tried your patience? How did you get through that period?

What's happening during this passage?

The writer is crying out to God. It's not just any cry, it's a desperate plea. The writer in clear distress begins to wonder "if I have done something to bring about this wrath, I know there is forgiveness in you." Humans often wonder if we have done something to "deserve" the challenges in our lives.

In this dialogue between writer and God, we get the feeling that this person "waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning." As a public challenge, the psalm ends with a call to "hope in the Lord" for it is the Lord who will "redeem Israel from all its iniquities."

What do you notice about the structure of this passage?

This passage begins at the individual level and then zooms out to the collective level. In verses 1 through 6, the writer seems to be speaking about a personal relationship with the God who forgives. But by verse 7, there is an invitation to the public. Whoever is reading, hearing, experiencing this message should know that the Lord has "steadfast love" and is able to redeem. First the writer reflects on a personal relationship with God. Then, the writer invites others into knowing that God, too.

How long should we wait? I'm tired of waiting!

In many languages, including Hebrew and Spanish, "wait" can also mean "hope." Depending on context clues, you might translate the sentence differently. Many will think that "waiting" means we sit at home while we twiddle our thumbs. But waiting is an act of faith. It does not mean that we do nothing. It means that we find other ways to occupy our time.

While we are waiting on the circumstance to change, we can find something to keep our heart and mind focused. Maybe you need rest. Do that. Maybe you need to read. Do that. Maybe you need to call your elected officials and keep pressure on them as they represent our needs. Do that. Maybe you need to check on neighbors, fill out your Census form, draw, connect with yourself, connect with family, journal, or something else. Do that. In your waiting, you can still have hope.

What questions do you still have of this scripture? How will you commit to journeying with this text this week?

Connection to Today's World

Henry "Box" Brown was born enslaved in Virginia in 1815. When his wife



was pregnant with their fourth child, she was sold to a plantation in North Carolina. In one day, he lost his entire family. He decided that he would get his freedom, at any cost. On March 23, 1849, he was helped into a box (3 feet long by 2 feet 8 inches deep by 2 feet wide). They cut a hole into the box for air and sent him with a small jug of water and biscuits. During the 27 hour journey, the package was handled

and jostled. Of course, to the unaware eye, the box only contained "dry goods." No one expected a human being would pop out, except the receivers of the package.

When Henry arrived at his destination (to the office of abolitionists who had helped orchestrate the whole thing), he said, "How do you do Gentlemen?" He then recited a psalm, "I waited patiently on the Lord and He heard my prayer."

Waiting is still a verb. As we wait, as we are on a statewide PAUSE, we can actively hope for the ending of this current suffering. We can wait and do all that we can to help flatten the curve. We can hope **and** be worried. God sees and cares.

To hear a children's book version of this story, click this link from Sankofa Read Aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLQt1wau4OA>.

Journal: As we are all doing our part to flatten the curve, where are you in your "hoping and waiting?" Take 5 minutes to free-write whatever comes to your mind. There are no wrong answers.

Closing: Sing “More than a Watchman,” written by Pastor Gary V. Simpson.

More than a Watchman,
Waits for the Morning,
More than a Watchman,
Waits for the morn,
My soul waits for thee.

Prayer:

Dear God,

You are the God who meets us at any hour of the day. You have been the God of our weary years and of our silent tears.

We are still in Lent. We actively look towards the Resurrection. We know that every Sunday is a reminder of Christ’s raising. Even in the midst of so much pain, anguish, death, sorrow and lament, we are waiting for You. We hope for you. We trust in you. We believe in you. Help us to stay connected to You and our community.

Keep us fortified as we move in these strange times. Help us to hold out. Equip us with the wisdom of experts and the peace that passes all understanding.

In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen

Sources:

<https://www.pbs.org/black-culture/shows/list/underground-railroad/stories-freedom/henry-box-brown/>