

CLIMBING MT. SINAI

Scripture: Psalm 130

March 27, 2020

"My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning..."

~ Psalm 130:6

Psalm 130 is one of my favorite Psalms for many reasons, but one of them is the image of waiting through the night in anticipation. Think of the times you have done this. Sometimes you aren't sleeping because it is your responsibility to stay awake, perhaps for work or because you are helping someone. Sometimes you aren't sleeping because of the excitement that you know the next day holds. Sometimes you are worrying, or your mind is "racing" with thoughts.

I remember waking in the dark the morning of my wedding. It was too early to get up (and I needed my beauty sleep!) but I could not go back to sleep. I waited until the morning sun shone through the window. Another long night of waiting with anticipation was when I went into labor with our first child just after midnight. I stayed at home through the night before we went to the hospital. There is a special peace in the dark of night when you know something big is happening!

There is also a time when waiting for morning is not peaceful or comfortable. I can remember many nights when I've been backpacking waiting in the darkness for the morning. For a start, a sleeping bag on the ground isn't plush, but then there are those noises...a chipmunk? A skunk? A bear?! Or there are the times when I've been up with a sick child or spouse. It means listening for breathing or coughing or checking for fever. Somehow, the darkness makes all fears bigger.

In October, we traveled with the bishop to the Holy Land and Egypt. One of the highlights for me was climbing to the top of Mt. Sinai during the night. We left around 1 a.m. and arrived at the top at 4:15 a.m., about an hour before the first light of dawn began to show. Sitting in the early morning darkness at a place of holy mystery was an amazing experience. I contemplated waiting on the Lord.

"Out of the depths, I have cried to thee...Oh, Lord, hear my voice. With my whole heart I want to praise thee. Oh, Lord, Hear my voice." Psalm 130:1

The stillness of the night. The immensity of history. The closeness of God's presence. All these thoughts occupied my mind as we sat. And then, the sun began to rise, and the darkness was pierced. The majesty and glory of God was so close.

We wait through the night with a Lord who is interested only in sharing our waiting. We wait in the darkness of Lent with promises of peace, of resurrection, and of the comfort of the Spirit. We wait.

PRAYER: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning. Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord, knowing that you hear our voice. With our whole hearts, let us praise you. Thank you for overlooking the many times we falter and let you down. Wait with us and reveal to us your promises. AMEN.

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