

December 15, 2021

If You're not First, You're Last

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

I have always been competitive. From a simple card game or out on the field, I would always make sure I was winning. And when I didn't win, my mood was rocked. I was the person that would yell at the TV when my Cowboys had fumbled or the ref would say it was not a catch.

I had a "If you're not first, you're last" mentality. And yes, I did just quote Talladega Nights, but it is the truth. And you would be lying if you have never had those types of thoughts in your head as well. It may not pertain to sports, maybe it is popularity, academics, or in the work place. Nobody likes to be last. It goes back to Adam and Eve or Cain and Abel.

Eve thought she was missing out; do you like feeling left out? Cain was a poor loser; seriously, did you think he was going to favor your sacrifice over Abel's who brought his best to the Lord? Our society pushes us to mark off all the boxes in order to be deemed worthy of praise.

I struggled with this, when I was too proud to admit that I failed and dug myself into a deeper hole. We never broadcast our failures, so we walk around acting as if we do nothing but succeed, and that gives off unrealistic expectations. At some point in the past year, we have all failed in one way or another. Some to the point of fear. I know my family and I were there, knocking on fear's door until we turned around and refocused ourselves on the only thing that could bring us peace, that could bring us hope.

The beauty of this season is about the salvation that has been given to us through an eight pound six ounce (I know we don't know his actual birth weight) precious child who was born in a manger, and who would grow up to live a sinless life to become the ultimate sacrifice so that we could never lose hope again. He who knew no sin, no failures, became ours. Because of Jesus Christ being our salvation, we will always be first.

And we will always be first when we stop being afraid and start trusting in the one who has instilled hope in our lives.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for giving your one and only Son. Help us focus this season on the one who gave us our salvation. In your name we pray, Amen.*

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