

Dragons
Next Steps
November 15, 2020
Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10

OPENING PRAYER:

Spirit, we are preparing to open the Scriptures. We want to hear from you as we read. We want to understand these living words and apply them to our lives. We believe that you can give us insight and understanding. Move in us and give us hearts that are open to the truth we will encounter. Let us be changed because we have engaged in the word of the Lord. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- What were you fascinated with as a child? (dinosaurs, space, Greek mythology, dragons, unicorns, etc.)

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

Much of the book of Revelation is called apocalyptic literature. This was a style of writing in the ancient world that used coded messages and symbols particular to that time period. As we talk about dragons, we read some very heavy scriptures. Read Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10.

- What do you think is going on in this passage?
- What/who is the dragon?
- What will life be like without Satan deceiving the nations, but with the church reigning instead? In what sense is that already true? And not yet true?
- What do you find comforting in this chapter? Disturbing?
- What is your biggest spiritual battle today? What is the outcome so far? What is the hope in this passage for you?

MORE TO PONDER:

Jesus' good news about the kingdom can be an effective guide for our lives only if we share his view of the world in which we live. To his eyes this is a God-bathed and God-permeated world. It is a world filled with a glorious reality, where every component is within the range of God's direct knowledge and control - though he obviously permits some of it, for good reasons, to be for a while otherwise than as he wishes. It is a world that is inconceivably beautiful and good because of God and because God is always in it. It is a world in which God is continually at play and over which he constantly rejoices. Until our thoughts of God have found every visible thing and event glorious with his presence, the word of Jesus has not yet fully seized us.

---Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

- What strikes you about this passage?
- What are your thoughts on the statement, 'It is a world that is inconceivably beautiful and good...'? Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
- How would your life be different if you looked at the world as Jesus sees it?
- The last sentence is powerful and convicting, what are your thoughts?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness.

Come, my Life, and revive me from death.

Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds.

Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of thy love.

Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there.

For thou alone art my King and my Lord.

--St. Dimitrii of Rostov, 17th century

¹Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)