**Words of Encouragement - 27th November**

Psalm 130:1-6

From a sea of troubles, I call out to you, Lord.  
Won’t you please listen as I beg for mercy?

If you kept record of our sins, no one could last long.  
But you forgive us, and so we will worship you.

With all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you! I trust your promises.  
I wait for you more eagerly than a soldier on guard duty waits for the dawn.  
Yes, I wait more eagerly than a soldier on guard duty waits for the dawn.

David (who probably wrote this Psalm) was anointed as God’s chosen heir to the throne of Israel as a teenager, but he didn’t become King until he was 30. The 15 years between could be characterised by two words - ‘trouble’ and ‘waiting’. As Saul tries to cling to power, David is forced out of the nation - living on the run and hiding in the desert to evade Saul’s attempts to kill him.

We all walk through seasons of ‘trouble’ and ‘waiting’, usually at different times, but this year has forced us into a crucible where it is a reality we are experiencing together. 2020 – ‘trouble’ and ‘waiting’. As we seek God for deliverance from trouble, we have the challenge of discerning how we can meet with him while we wait. The 19th century Scottish Evangelist, Oswald Chambers, said that one of the ways God works in times of trouble is “to simplify our belief until our relationship to Him is exactly that of a child — God and my own soul.”

Waiting for deliverance from trouble forces us to face our vulnerability and our dependence on God at a depth we don’t when we’re going full steam ahead. Jesus calls us to humble ourselves as children. This challenging invitation offers us the opportunity to exchange our anxious grasping for certainty and control for the loving arms of the Father. Only in his embrace can our hearts be moved from turmoil to trust as we experience his unique peace even while we still wait for the dawn to break.



*Father God, please give us your peace and help us to grow in childlike trust as we wait on you. Amen*

*Steve Deall*