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Indescribable
Psalms 40:1-10 NLT
January 27, 2019
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My name is Adrian Moskal and if you don't know who I am, that probably means that you have been here at CRBC less than four months. I want to welcome you here and let me tell you, you have found a great church. I am the Community and Outreach Pastor here at CRBC.

In October CRBC took over the ministry of Radiant Life Community Church. We took over the ministry after years of partnering with them and then their senior pastor fell ill and had to retire. They asked us to carry on with their ministry. I have led this ministry since the first week of October.

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RL is a street church downtown behind the Firehall. We serve the homeless and near homeless. We have a soup kitchen and help clothe them as well. We also have Sunday morning worship services at 10 am.

Nine meals a week go out of our building to help those in need. We serve lunch on Sundays. Our Sunday lunches serve approximately 65-85 people. The United Church serves lunch on Saturdays and an organization called Grass Roots Kind Hearts serves supper 7 nights a week.

We have many partners in this endeavour. The churches of Campbell River are well represented. Salvation Army (out of their location) serves lunch to the homeless during the week. United Church, as I shared, serve lunch out of RL on Saturdays. Discovery Church, Vineyard Church, Anglican Church, Catholic church, serve supper with GRKH at RL throughout the month.

The Catholic church supplies us with food every month, CLF has helped us with worship leaders and financially. Churches in Gold River, Nova Scotia, and Courtenay have also all helped as well.

We have restaurants and businesses that donate soup and bread. The City of Campbell River helps as well.

You see, we are not alone in this endeavour. When we first started, back in October, it felt that we were alone (at least to me it did). Have you ever heard the phrase, keep your head above water. In the first week of October, it felt like the water was at my ears.

In my first week, I realized I had zero teams or people to serve meals on Sundays. We had volunteers quit that helped organize the evening meals by opening and locking the doors at night. We had zero experience in running a soup kitchen.

Because Pastor Art had to retire quickly do to health concerns, there wasn't the time to have a smooth transition.

Our clothes closet includes shoes, socks, pants, underwear, shirts, sweaters, jackets, mitts, toques, blankets and toiletries.

Most of the people we serve, have no fixed residence so they come and they take what they can wear or carry. Usually they are looking for something warm and dry for that night.

Two things have stood out to me so far. First, the kindness, thankfulness and generosity of the people we serve has been amazing. It has been a blessing to me and has affected me at a heart level. God has given me a love for the people we serve very early on. Secondly, the amount of volunteers that have come alongside has been overwhelming. Our Sunday lunch serve teams are cohesive groups that have done a fabulous job to prepare, serve and clean up each Sunday. We have had teams of people who have come and helped clean and organize whole rooms at our new church. Also, the amount of help from churches and community partners has been tremendous. It has been very evident how God is at work and continues to be at work at Radiant Life and through those who serve there.

Today we are looking at Psalm 40 and how amazing God is. The title of this sermon is Indescribable because that is exactly how God is sometimes. He can be so awesome that our language can't always do him justice.

As I read through Psalm 40:1-10, listen for all the descriptors of God. Who is he and what is he doing? Ask those questions as we read.

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Psalm 40:1-10 NLT

**¹ I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,
and he turned to me and heard my cry.**

**² He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire.**

**He set my feet on solid ground
and steadied me as I walked along.**

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**³ He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.
They will put their trust in the Lord.**

**⁴ Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord,
who have no confidence in the proud
or in those who worship idols.**

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**⁵ O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us.
Your plans for us are too numerous to list.
You have no equal.**

**If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds,
I would never come to the end of them.**

**⁶ You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.
Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand—
you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings.**

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**⁷ Then I said, "Look, I have come.
As is written about me in the Scriptures:**

**⁸ I take joy in doing your will, my God,
for your instructions are written on my heart."**

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**⁹ I have told all your people about your justice.
I have not been afraid to speak out,
as you, O Lord, well know.**

**¹⁰ I have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in my heart;
I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power.
I have told everyone in the great assembly
of your unfailing love and faithfulness.**

What an amazing piece of scripture. David is sharing how indescribable he finds God. He is totally amazed at every aspect of God. He sees him at work all around him. Let's look at the first 2 verses.

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Psalm 40:1-10 NLT

**¹ I waited patiently for the Lord to help me,
and he turned to me and heard my cry.**

**² He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire.
He set my feet on solid ground
and steadied me as I walked along.**

David has been rescued by God. He not only was rescued but he also can look back after and see that it was God who did it. David is recalling a time where God heard his cry when the waves were crashing down on him. he was in the muck in a pit of despair but God found him there.

There is a girl I met at Radiant Life who is one of the sweetest people you could ever meet. Her thankfulness is off the charts each time she comes in. She had 23 foster

families in first 2 years of her life. 60 plus in all. She was on the street by age of 16. That to me describes the muck and mire. It would put me in a pit of despair. She doesn't have it all figured out but she'll pick up the Daily bread we give out. She asked me for a bible. We get to have conversations about Jesus regularly. She is someone that I see the Holy Spirit working on. She will read the Daily bread and then in her bible look up the verses and come in and ask me about it. She'll have sections underlined. God is at work.

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**³ He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.
They will put their trust in the Lord.**

This is what we live for. This is our mission. Leading people to become committed follower of Jesus Christ. People will be so struck by what God has done in your life. The Actual life/heart change that Jesus has caused, that they will be attracted to him and put their trust in him.

Let me share a story about someone at Radiant Life who has been affected by what God is doing. So, there was this guy who was staying at the shelter and comes in for meals at RL. He has some struggles in life. He wasn't dealt the same hand that most of us here have. He has a mental health case worker who helps him. He also is such a sweet guy. One day, he comes in and wants to get access to the dining room before supper time, because there is a young girl who comes that was turning 19 that he wanted to buy a cake for and pop and decorations. He wanted to make it special for her at RL at supper time.

So, we arranged the time and he did all this. Supper time came and she never came. I was so sad for him because it was such a sweet thing to do. He took it in stride.

The fact that he did all of that makes it a good story. Anyway, a few weeks ago, he pops in and hands me an envelope and says he went to the bank to get them to prepare a cheque for him. He said, he has been so thankful for what we have been doing, that he just had to help. He was thankful for the joy that he experiences when he comes.

I thanked him, and he left. I then opened the cheque and it was for \$220. When you look at what that money would mean to him, I was totally dumbfounded at what was going on. If you disagree, donate 30% of your cheque next month. And when your monthly income is where his is, it means even more. How can you not be amazed at what God is doing.

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**⁴ Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord,
who have no confidence in the proud
or in those who worship idols.**

David is one who has seen the Lord answer prayer and give him the glory for it. Out of his thankful heart he writes these first 10 verses. How about you? You see David, wasn't perfect but his heart was centred on God. He knew God was amazing and could see his fingerprints on every good gift that Israel received. He only put his trust in God alone.

What things do we put our trust in. We can worship many things: our jobs, our comfort, our families, our retirement fund, or something else? If we look around, and see what God is doing, you can't be anything but be amazed and give him the glory.

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When we see Jesus save people, when we see him do the miraculous, we have to trust him and worship him alone.

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**⁵ O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us.
Your plans for us are too numerous to list.
You have no equal.
If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds,
I would never come to the end of them.**

Indescribable. He has too many deeds to count. Are you in awe of God. In who he is. In what he is doing? Or has done?

Sometimes when we have are in over our head, as I was when we first started at RL, you have to put all your trust in Jesus because you can't do it. I have had a front row seat at what Jesus is doing. I see him bringing a sense of peace to our meals. I see him bringing new people to our worship services. I see him changing hearts and people loving each other more and more each week. I have seen him bring volunteers from CRBC, from other churches and the community in droves when we had none. I have seen him bring finances to fund his mission. I could go on and on. They are too numerous to count.

Let me challenge you. Start a thankfulness journal. Each night, write down 3 ways you saw God at work that day. Pray to him and ask him to show you how he is at work. See how your mood, thankfulness, and the way you interact with those around you change when you look for what God is doing.

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**⁶ You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.
Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand—
you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings.**

God doesn't want your mindless sacrifices. What were those sacrifices for in the old testament? They were to pay for your sins and yet they never could. You could never sacrifice enough.

The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 40:6 and then comments the following:

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Hebrews 10:8-10 NLT

⁸ First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). ⁹ Then he said, “Look, I have come to do your will.” He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. ¹⁰ For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

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God doesn’t want our blind obedience to the law because the law can’t save us. God wants us to give our heart to Christ. To trust in Jesus and his sacrifice because his sacrifice was perfect and enough for all the sins of the world.

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Psalm 40:7-8

**⁷ Then I said, “Look, I have come.
As is written about me in the Scriptures:
⁸ I take joy in doing your will, my God,
for your instructions are written on my heart.”**

David reports that because his trust is in God, so is his heart and it is his heart’s desire to follow where God is leading.

Joshua has a similar reaction. He saw how God had led them and he saw that his people were worshipping and trusting other things than God. Let’s see his reaction.

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Joshua 24:14,15

¹⁴ “So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

What are you trusting in. David was trusting in God as was Joshua. When our hearts are centred on God, our actions follow, not out of duty but out of desire.

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**⁹ I have told all your people about your justice.
I have not been afraid to speak out,**

as you, O Lord, well know.

¹⁰ **I have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in my heart;**

I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power.

I have told everyone in the great assembly of your unfailing love and faithfulness.

We are to be witnesses to the indescribable nature of Jesus. How many ways can you share how amazing he is. To explain his character and his actions in your life and others. We are not called to change hearts or minds but to point people to Christ and what he has done.

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Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Main Point. Celebrate what Jesus is doing. This points people to him and then they can put trust in Jesus. When he Changes their heart - they take joy in doing his will. Then, we can't help but be Witnesses to the work that He has done in our life and others.

This isn't just happening at Radiant Life, Jesus is at work all around you. We have to look and try to describe a fraction of his awesomeness. He might be indescribable but his impact is not.