

## Stronger

### Psalm 40 (The Message)

"Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world's "sure thing," ignore what the world worships. The world's a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one come close to you! I start talking about you telling what I know and quickly run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you."

As a kid I can remember standing beside my dad singing the old song "Little is much when God is in it." Profound statement actually. No matter what I am involved in, from tucking the kids in bed, filling my car with gas, texting a friend, closing a business deal, or running for office, God is in it. God is involved. And that forever changes the little and the much.

Sermon Notes
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Revelation 13:1-10

Psalm 40

Big Idea:

What now?

Small Group Study
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**Main Theme:** Jesus' kingdom is more powerful than any political power, institution or kingdom.

**Objective:** To understand that, as disciples of Jesus, we are going to encounter opposition. In fact, the road may seem so tough that compromise looks more appealing. That is when we need to be reminded that God's kingdom is stronger than any man, institution, power or any other kingdom. And he calls us, to take his kingdom to those that are trapped under other kingdoms, and to provide the hope, strength and love he offers.

**Community** (*creating and atmosphere of unity, openness and love*)

Spend some time sharing stories about encountering "beasts." Might have been when you were a child, waterskiing, hiking, or the like. Take the time to talk about how you reacted. How has that impacted you today?

**Adoration** (*understanding who God is*)

Spend the next few minutes reading the following passage as a group. One person reading the verses, and the group responding with "His Love endures forever".

*Psalm 136*

After, share what pictures come to mind of God. What he is like. The phrase "His love endures forever" was mentioned several times. Why? How does that phrase impact the "beasts" we face in our lives?

**Nurture** (*sharing God's truth together*)

The passage in Revelation 13:1-10 talked about the powerful political and earthly powers that seemingly continue to prosper in our world. It is a battle that has existed throughout history until today. Take a look at the story of the philistines stealing the Ark.

Read through the following passages:

**1 Samuel 4:1-10** – Why did the Philistines understand the Ark to be such a threat? Why did God allow for the Ark to be captured? What do you think the Israelites were feeling? Saying?

**1 Samuel 5:1-12** – What are your thoughts about this passage? What do people do when fear strikes (think swine flu, er, H1N1)? What are the Philistines fearing?

**1 Samuel 6:1:20** – What part did the Israelites have in this story? What did they do to influence the outcome? Compare how the 2 groups (Israelites & philistines) would have talked about this story to their kid's years after.

**So what?** (*Applying God's truth*)

God's kingdom is the only kingdom we are to be concerned about. And yes, God is stronger than any other kingdom. Yet, that does not mean the story of our lives will go as we planned. As you think about your life today, what would it look like if you put the lens of God's kingdom over everything that you do? How would that impact your work? Free time? Raising your kids? Do you need to be reminded that God is the Author? That he does have a story for you? Who needs to hear that God's kingdom is stronger than any other?

What steps can you (individually) take this week to incorporate God's kingdom in your daily activities?

What can you do as a Small Group over the next few weeks or months to take God's kingdom into Kelowna? Your community? How can you support each other in this venture? (Ideas: Barbeque, potluck, movie night, bowling, board game night...)

**PRAY**

Pray for Kelowna & The Okanagan. Pray that God would grant you an opportunity to pass his kingdom message to someone this week. That WPC would build a community of believers that desire to impact the City of Kelowna for Christ.

God bless you guys & Have a great week.