

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

July 17, 2020



Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite, 2013

Disappointment

We were in a caravan on our way to Yosemite from Patterson. I was about 10 years old, riding in the backseat of my grandpa’s DeSoto with my brother. My cousins were in cars behind us. I had never been to Yosemite but had dreamed — more like fantasized — about climbing on rocks, playing hide and seek, and cowboys and . . . never mind.

We got about 30 minutes into the trip and my grandpa’s car began to overheat or something so we had to turn around and go back to Patterson. I was as devastated as a ten year old could be. I had been looking forward to this trip for weeks; in my mind, it would be *The Greatest Trip I Have Ever Taken In My Whole Life* (except for my first visit to Disneyland 2 years earlier). But now, in 30 minutes, my dream turned to dust.

My parents — especially my mother — empathized with me and seemed to understand, but that was about it. She made no effort to coddle me. She didn’t say it, but I got the message: “this is life, get used to it.” If I had cried about it, I would probably would have had to deal with my “I’ll-give-you-something-to-cry-about” dad. So, I swallowed hard and thought of ways to make the best of it.

Obviously, in the big scheme of things, this was nothing. I have been to Yosemite several times since then. . . although I still have not played hide and seek there.

Disappointment is part of life and if we learn the lesson when we’re kids, we are more likely to be well-adjusted adults. If the things that some young people are doing right now — like beating people up or assaulting police — are any indication, young people are not handling disappointment very well. To see what is going on in our country is, at the very least, “disappointing.”

Not getting to go to Yosemite was a minor disappointment. Many of our friends and family deal with major disappointments. Many of our brethren in the past suffered at the hands of persecutors; many were imprisoned and tortured.

Paul anticipates that we’ll struggle with disappoint in this life when he says,

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

“Does not put to shame” is the same as saying “does not disappoint.” No matter what happens in this life, we have a hope — a confident expectation — that will not disappoint us.

The hope does not disappoint because the reality is better than anything we can imagine. It would be sort of like if instead of the trip to Yosemite, we ended up in Disneyland and we had the run of the place; no-one there but us.

OK, there’s no way to come up with a valid analogy that compares our life on earth with what we will experience in heaven. But I do know that in 1957, going to Disneyland was probably the most “hoped-for” destination for a 10 year old. So it sort of works, on a very human level.

Meanwhile, take comfort in the words of Jesus.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33