

This section of the 8th chapter of Romans can be summarized in the way we teach our children how to solve a problem in a story.

Who? What? When? Where? Why?

The 8th chapter of Romans tells us it is who?

The Spirit.

The very breath of God. The Spirit which hovered over the deep waters of creation and entered into the nostrils of the first man, giving him life.

This very Spirit does what? Intercedes, prays.

The Spirit of the Living God goes to bat, time and time again, for who?

For us, in our weakness, sickness, and vulnerability. When?

When we don't know how to pray, when our sighs are too deep for words. When you hear the deep sigh of an unhoused woman on Wisconsin Ave. because she is too hot to continue to ask for cold sip of water. When a mother cannot speak but only groans in agony because she has lost her baby boy due to the violence.

Do you know that prayer? To pour out your heart in a way that cannot be met with words?

Do you know that place of suffering? That place where language cannot contain the experience being felt and yet you still pray?

The 8th chapter of Romans tells us it is who?

God, The Father the Almighty, Creator of heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

Is doing what?

Working all things... the job loss, the failed relationship, the rejection, the medical results, working all things out for the good of who?

For us who are rebellious and wrathful and yet love God and are called according to God's purpose.

And when have we been called? It has been predestined. Since the beginning of time and before the foundation of creation was laid.

And it is who?

Jesus, the Son of God who put on flesh and bone and entered our world.

When Adam chose to eat of the fruit, it is Jesus who fasted.

When Adam hid naked in shame, it is Jesus who stood naked on a cross to bear our shame.

We have been adopted by God into this family bearing the image of the Son of God who has been elected as our eldest brother.

We are called to come from behind the fig leaves of shame, and stand exactly as we are, naked in the glory of God.

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, then who is against us? No one that matters!

All our enemies have been defeated and at the end of the age our enemies will be our footstool and God will place them under of our feet.

It is who, God, who is Good and Generous and out of that goodness and generosity offered up His first fruit who is His son Jesus Christ.

God did not withhold His Son from the experience of suffering in this world. And in the midst of our own suffering we are called to live and move and have our being in a spirit of goodness and generosity.

The 8th chapter of Romans tells us it is who? Jesus Christ

What? Will judge.

When? On the last day

Because he sits where? At the right hand of the Father robed in glory, majesty and honor.

The same God whose hands turned water into wine, healed the sick, who took, blessed, broke and gave bread, and whose hands bear the mark of nails in them because he was crucified, died, and was raised.

The same God who judges the wheat and the weeds will judge us, and we need not fear because out of His unfathomable and eternal mercy, He will judge us good.

Who then will separate us from the love of Christ?

No one and nothing at all, can come between you and God.

Why? Because God loves you.

You are more than conquerors because of our God's love is stronger than death and his passion is as fierce as the grave.

God loves you during your guilt and depression and anxiety

God loves you when you feel like you're the world's worst parent

God loves you when you fail and feel defeated

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God Loves You
Romans 8:26-39
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

God loves when friends don't understand you, when your momma doesn't understand you. When feel like you can't even understand yourself.

God loves, because God loves you because God loves, because God loves you because our God is always and ever shall be love.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.