

**"COMFORTABLY
UNCOMFORTABLE"**
Date: March 15, 2020
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Today we are going to stay right here in our series 'Anonymous Series.'

- We have been talking about "Learning to live in the Holy tension of our own power and powerlessness"
- Our spiritual posture for this series is one of "Open Handed Expectation."

This week we had already planned to do a talk about what it means to be "Comfortably Uncomfortable"

- Question: How are you doing with your own Uncomfortable Feelings?
- I think that we need to start putting words around those feelings....
- This will be especially important for our Children. This is often avoided because it can be so very uncomfortable!

How about I go first?

- If I'm honest, earlier in the week I started feeling a fair amount of angst!
- Things are not normal out there. It's just too unprecedented and unpredictable out there!
- The Control I enjoyed pretending to have, has been completely removed.
- These Angsty feelings continued for a bit until my own plans started to get cancelled...

All this brings me to where I am now...

- I say this quite carefully and with some thoughtfulness... I'm feeling quite blessed.
- Especially in light of last week's teaching of the word "Blessing" or "Blessed."
- If you remember, "A blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him."
- In the midst of all that is happening in our world we need to really receive this!
- When things don't go well, when things are all sideways, and we feel vulnerable, it's way too easy to start reverting back to Fear and Curses instead of Faith and Blessings.

- The 'open handed' posture is not an easy one to hold!
- One that requires us to lean not on our own finite understandings but on Gods all knowing understanding...
- But this is what God wants...

(Vs) Prov 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

- This verse isn't just telling me what not to do or where not to lean.
- Moses and Aaron are leaning on **Gods Understandings**...

(Vs) Numbers 6:22-26 "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance^d upon you and give you peace.

- A blessing pours out and the consequences are a set a part people at peace.
- In this way God is building his people!

Now at a later time, Moses and Aaron are in a more frustrated and vulnerable place. More like we feel now...

- The people are spinning, they need water, they feel forgotten!

(Vs) Numbers 20:10-11 'Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock."

- This time... Moses and Aaron are leaning on **their own understandings** and so strike instead of speak to the rock!
- **Notice...** The blessing of God still pours forth! This is because God isn't going to be stopped from building His people.
- But, the consequences are strong for these leaning the wrong way in trying times, and God banishes Moses and Aaron from the Promise Land.

In the end we need to decide which way we are going to lean...

- These times make us feel vulnerable, exposed and out of control!
- And that's okay... Choose to lean on God and trust that He is building his people!