

It's A Lot More Fun If You Open Your Eyes

What do you think about roller coasters? Peter Prange wrote that when he was a kid, he was deathly afraid of them. He didn't live too far from Great America, which was the big amusement park in his area. He would go down there about every summer but would never go on a roller coaster with his brother or sister. They would always say, "Come on, you have to try it to see if you like it," but he was happy riding the bumper cars and the merry-go-round.

But then his senior year in high school came. He was on the student council, and the student council always went to Great America at the end of the year. He had still never ridden on a roller coaster, and for some reason he admitted that to his friends. They couldn't believe it. "You've never ridden on a roller coaster? Well, you're going to ride on one now." So he did, and he really did enjoy it. He was excited and terrified at the same time. After that first ride, his friend sitting next to him had one piece of advice. He said, "You know, it's even more fun if you open your eyes." You've probably heard it said before, "If you don't keep your eyes open, you're bound to miss something." That was Peter on the roller coaster. It's a good encouragement that we all need to hear occasionally: Open your eyes.

That's the encouragement that our God is giving us this morning. He says to the disciples of Jesus – you and me – Open your eyes and look at the glory of Jesus.

All too often when things seem uncertain or too scary we close our eyes, our minds, our hearts to what is happening around us. When we do we are also shutting ourselves off from the many blessings that come from God during the very times we need to see God's blessing the most.

Helen H. Lemmel, in 1922 wrote words we all need to be reminded of from time to time.

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

- *Refrain:*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

May we remember our hope, strength, peace, and courage comes from our Lord and Savior. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus so as the song says, the things of this world will grow strangely dim. Let us keep our eyes open on Jesus so that whatever is happening in the world around us we are ever mindful of God's glory and grace. Life is worth living when we keep our eyes on Jesus.

God bless,
Pastor Barbara