

19-Psalms-55-Transcript

[Music]

[Music]

well greetings brethren and welcome to another wednesday night bible study and i'm sure you are surprised by the fact that i'm joined by a very special guest many of you may know but some of you may not know that this is our sister lisa palmeteer welcome to our wednesday night bible study line up online thank you i'm so very thankful to still be here to be able to speak to you it is uh it is certainly a miracle and so what we thought we would do this evening is uh we are going to just open with a psalm i'll say opening prayer i'm going to read a psalm it's one of our sister lisa's uh favorite psalms and then we're going to hear her personal testimony this is a sister that we have been praying for she was certainly on her deathbed and in a sense we have received her from the dead miraculously because of your prayers your fastings and god's grace let's uh open with the word of prayer and then we can get into the study for this evening our heavenly father great god you are so kind and so merciful toward us this uh pandemic this uh covet uh pathogen that has been very disruptive to the world as a whole to the economy the

global economy
but it has certainly been lethal
especially to those with underlying
conditions
and our sister lisa had respiratory
problems
and then was stricken with this uh
coveted virus
and as we know father she was uh
just moments away from breathing her
last breath
and that caused an enormous stress for
us as
she was just taken from us
and yet father because of your mercy as
we cried out to you
globally
you heard our prayers and our sister is
with us tonight
she wants to share her testimony father
bring glory to your name and
just help others who may be going
through similar trials
uh just to see
what a
faithful
and merciful father you are
we praise you lord and we pray that
you'll bless this
transmission in this
testimony and that you'll bless our
brethren who are tuning in we praise you
lord and we thank you in jesus most holy
name so brethren as i mentioned uh we
are studying the book of psalms of god
willing next week we're going to get
into the last book of psalms book 5. but
tonight what i want to do is just read
psalm 23 have our sister lisa introduce
herself and then just have a
conversation with her
about the experience that she's just
come through
psalm 23 at the psalm of david i think

most of us are very very familiar with
it
the lord is my shepherd
i shall not want
he makes me to lie down in green
pastures
he leads me beside the still waters
he restoreth my soul
he leads me in the paths of
righteousness
for his name's sake
yeah
though i walk through the valley of the
shadow of death
i will fear no evil
for you are with me
your rod and your staff
they comfort me
you prepare a table before me
in the presence
of my enemies
you anoint my head with oil
my cup runs over
surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life
and i will dwell
in the house of the lord forever
sister
lisa this is one of your favorite psalms
maybe you could just start for us not
everybody knows yeah a lot of people do
know you but we have a now a global
audience brethren all over the world
tune in maybe just introduce yourself um
you know we know you're the wife of
pastor murray palmeteer we see him often
um just a little bit about you how long
you've been in the church and anything
you'd like to share okay so
i've been in the church almost 30 years
now
um i was 17 when god was calling me and
the reason that this is my favorite
scripture
is because it was the first scripture

that i connected to emotionally
so when god was calling me at you know
17 is a really tender age and there was
a lot of turmoil in my life and just a
lot going on with my school friends and
everything
and
it made me feel when i read those words
and they washed over me it made me feel
so safe
and it made me feel so loved at 17 at
17.
and it was a real emotional connection
to god's word
and it touched me deeply and it still
does every time that i read it i feel so
loved
i feel
i feel god's comfort around me and it
still has the same effect today as it
did then which is why it's my favorite
wow um and over the years so i've been
in the church about 30 years uh been
married to my husband now for 26 years
wow we have two uh really great children
beautiful children we our son landon you
see him on camera he's often song
leading or reading scripture or saying
prayer
our daughter caitlyn
you'll see her sing sometimes
but otherwise she's behind the scenes
doing other work back here helping the
ladies with
other things
but they are
you know here every sabbath with us and
they've been a joy to raise
and and a joy to the congregation and
contributors incredibly incredibly
blessed yeah yeah and uh we as a
congregation have been incredibly
blessed uh by your presence in the
congregation

i think sometimes we can take
brethren for granted the old saying you
don't know what you've got until it's
gone and when you were suddenly taken
out of the congregation sister lisa
there was a big hole
i realized what a positive force you are
in the congregation you're there every
week you're faithful and you're just so
positive you're all you're optimistic
you always see the bright side you're
always encouraging you're always very
insightful when we have our conversation
then suddenly you were gone
and it really struck me
the value of your presence in the
congregation i would love to hear and i
think our brethren would love to hear
just a little bit of your your story
with respect to this
uh covet experience that you've had
maybe we could go back to
getting sick
right so maybe even before that sister
um you had some underlying conditions
which puts you at high risk
for covet maybe just talk a little bit
about what those underlying conditions
were to the extent that you're
comfortable sure and then i'd like to
just know
how you came to become infected with the
virus so um i already have autoimmune
disease
which
um i have been
um
very diligent about
um trying to be healthy to manage it
um and we were very careful
about um
who we were exposing ourselves to
um you know doing online groceries and
trying to minimize because of it because

of covid we were trying to minimize my exposure to illness in order to preserve my health because i'm already at risk right um and unfortunately you can't live in a bubble right you must live yeah and we cannot live in fear um we must trust that god is protecting us and that god always has our best interest in and unfortunately all four of us in the home got sick and we all contracted covid we all tested and and what was that like is that like oh i think i'm coming down with the flu i have a bad cold i feel pain like what was that it felt like a bad cold to start with um so our children had more minor symptoms maybe a runny nose a little bit of a cough feeling a little run down but they were younger and bounced back a little easier and no underlying health conditions so um they actually recovered quite quickly murray actually had more symptoms than i did i was more worried about him he started showing symptoms a couple of days before me um now i am prone to respiratory illness so i often i i've got a career in child care and so exposure to illness was on the regular for me and so i always had bronchitis and i've had pneumonia several times and so for me my lungs were already weak um but it didn't hit my lungs right away it didn't feel like it hit my leg and i've never known murray's reset no yeah where he doesn't get sick at all yeah uh so i was surprised because he was having

a hard time even going up the stairs he
couldn't walk up the stairs without
stopping to take a rest and that's not
my murray so i was very concerned for
him

um and i was more trying to monitor how
he was doing and when it would be the
time to take him to the hospital because
i was very concerned for him even though
you were sick yeah i guess you felt like
you could ride it out i felt run down
and i also you know you get to know when
you've been sick so often you get to
know there's a point where you can tell
okay my lungs are in trouble
now it's time to because until you get
to a certain point the doctors don't
want to right right so
you have to sort of
gauge it gauge it and and especially
with covid it was you know stay home
stay home stay home right so you know we
had to

use common sense and did you know it was
cold did you have a sense that okay this
is more than just a cold uh
at one point yes

so

um anyway murray seemed to be
struggling quite a bit and i was worried
for him but then one morning when i woke
up my lungs were sore
and i was having difficulty breathing
and i thought okay
and i asked murray to take me to the
hospital right away because i knew that
was the point where okay it's now in my
lungs and i need to seek help before
that i just felt a little run down i was
tired a little feverish um but it it
wasn't
really extreme but when you say take me
to the hospital you knew it was coveted
or it's take me to the hospital let's

find out what this is well i already
knew it was coveted because we had all
tested positive a few days before
because um
because murray had tested positive we
all were tested um because then you
needed like with the regulations you
need to isolate and
and so we just needed to know where we
stood so we were all tested we all
tested positive so i already knew that
it was covid but my symptoms were
minimal and i was really praying that i
would be able to get away with just
being ill at home and recovering
uh that didn't happen which many people
do many people do and murray did murray
uh you know it took him a few weeks to
get rid of the cough and to catch his
breath fully
but you know he recovered
relatively quickly and
the the immune system doing its thing
absolutely that's what the immune system
is you know created for yeah but then he
had no underlying conditions right you
did but uh so i was admitted to hospital
immediately
um i went to the emergency room within
20 minutes i was in so did you get a
sense that the hospital realized this is
serious or yes because the first thing
they did
um as soon as they said that i was short
of breath the first thing they did was
monitor my oxygen levels
and
i still had a fever then
so they admitted me immediately and had
me on started giving me oxygen right
away
um and i'm still to this day on oxygen i
haven't been able to get rid of it yet
but uh you keep improving and we'll talk

about that i'm god willing that'll if
that'll come yeah um and it wasn't very
long at all i was in a hospital room
like i went from emergency up to a room
very quickly
and it
i just couldn't maintain the oxygen
levels and i wound up in icu by the end
of the day is that because you were
getting sicker and sicker and your
condition was deteriorating yes so what
happens is that when it when the covid
attacks your lungs it hardens them like
it creates a scar tissue and it hardens
and hardens and hardens and then your
lungs can't
they don't
yes so you can't get the oxygen that you
need the oxygen saturation let's see
so that's what happened to me i couldn't
maintain oxygen saturation
sufficient for good health right um
because when your oxygen levels drop
then everything's compromised you can
you can really deal with some cognitive
issues
some organ failure so you really have to
be careful you can't play with it yeah
um so i wound up in icu rather quickly
um and so at this time is how's murray
is he better is he or is he still no
he's still ill okay and obviously um i
couldn't have any visitors or anything
because they're isolating
and i'm isolating so
um
just kind of
a solitary existence in the icu and a
lot of and they'll have you lay on your
stomach they call it proning okay so i
was laying on my stomach most of the
time
which is
on any other day would have been great

to lay on my stomach but when you're forced to it's quite uncomfortable so it was and full of wires and full of tubes and um trying to breathe and it was awkward and it was and then i remember getting news that uh they put you on ventilator yes that scared me uh so scared me too yeah so what what happened there uh well at a certain point my lungs just couldn't function anymore so the oxygen they started with the nasal prong at first that wasn't really helping so they switched me to something a little stronger which is called high flow still goes in through the nose but it's got like a more of a pressurized um so it uh it gives you more oxygen and that i still wasn't able to maintain my oxygen levels and so at a certain point they needed to intubate me so that um the machines would do the work lungs couldn't do and that particular moment was quite uh quite scary not scary you know but it's concerning you still have faith in god but it's it's concerning and the reason why it was so concerning is that the doctor handed me my phone and asked me to call my husband and told me i had five minutes before you because once you're intubated you're not conscious or uh well i one i asked not to be conscious because i'm i'm claustrophobic yeah and i and i wasn't sure how i would react to all of these tubes and and not being able to

move and also
um i think it's easier for the body to
relax
if you're just
sleeping yeah and let the machines do
the work okay um so and with the
machines you can't talk so when he says
you have five minutes it's like this is
it and basically we said all the i loves
you i love you which is important so
that's great
yeah um it was uh emotional
it was
you know you just have to put your faith
in god and say well
thank you for all that you give
but uh you know
who knows what's going to happen so
that's interesting because you actually
said earlier that you know we can't live
in fear and so we had to isolate do all
the precautions but
even though you had compromised
situation you can't live in fear and i
think many of our brethren unfortunately
i hear a lot of fear in the body of
christ
and and you know
you know he that fears is not made
perfect in love right so it does not
have perfect love so uh
talk to us about the dark time you know
you're in solitary for quite a while uh
there's a point where murray came to us
and said please pray regarding your
mental health
because you're just in isolation
how dark did it get
it got pretty dark so i started in one
hospital and ended up in another so when
they intubated me
um and things kind of went really south
um there was a moment where they had to
make a decision to put me on life

support
and the hospital i was at wasn't
sophisticated it wasn't advanced enough
in their their technology there to
support that so they switched me to
another hospital and i was how far apart
are these hospitals um
maybe 30 kilometers okay so not too bad
not too bad just the difference between
a smaller town and
a bigger hospital more established
hospital
so um
when i woke up i was very disoriented
because they kept you know every time
that they
every time that they bring you out of
sedation
they ask you what your name is can you
wiggle your fingers and toes do you know
where you are do you know what day it is
well one i had no clue what day it was
right um i knew my name but i kept
telling them the wrong hospital and they
kept saying no no you're not you're at
this other hospital and because you
forgot that you were transported i
didn't know you didn't know i didn't
know so it wasn't computing yeah i kept
saying this hospital they kept saying no
no you're you're at hamilton general and
i kept i'm why am i here
um and
you know i would i would come out of
sedation and i would see it was almost
always when murray's face was there so
murray would murray's face would be
right there and he'd say hi
how are you you know and he was so happy
to see me open my eyes but i was so
sleepy and kind of out of it so for a
long time
you know i they'd bring me out of
sedation i'd be kind of aware of where i

was but really groggy and not
not fully aware of where i was
and then there was a time where it kind
of kicked in i couldn't move
so one i had a lot of i couldn't speak
because i had all these tubes down my
throat and so i couldn't talk i couldn't
communicate that was very frustrating
um i couldn't move because i had been
laying in the bed for so long i had lost
the function of my legs completely
which i
i didn't expect that was a huge surprise
to me i didn't realize that that
happened right
so so you're figuring this out like yes
i'm here but i can't move my body right
and even i had some use of my arms but
minimal but it was so full of iv and
you know all these tubes and needles
that you can't really move because every
time that you move you set all the alarm
bells off on the machines and you don't
make friends with nurses like that so
you learn to stay very still but the
more still you stay the less you so
lisa are you still you like is it still
fully you you're just trapped or is this
sort of like you're not quite you i
don't know if you guys know what it is
my brain was working 100
and my body was not and you do feel
trapped
and i am i am claustrophobic as i
mentioned before so being stuck in a
place where you have no control and you
have to rely completely on everybody
around you for anything that you want
was a very difficult place to be in not
being able to communicate with words
very very humbling a very humbling
experience and i will say
there was some time where i was
frustrated and it was

and and you you know i couldn't i knew
i knew that god had protected me and i
was still alive
but i was in such a place that i was
having a really hard time seeing what my
future might look like
so
in this incapacitated state
you're thinking
please please just don't forsake me here
yes either give me rest and i accept
that
or bring me out and restore me so i
wanted to just explore that a little bit
if you don't mind the spiritual side of
this trial so it's not like you're able
to study your bible every day and listen
to sermons or so the spiritual input
isn't there no so now you're running on
reserves but psalm 23 is in my head wow
tell me about that uh you know
i'm not i don't have a great memory my
murray has a great memory he can recall
things he can
he can recall names of people he met 30
years ago
you can recall scripture
you and i don't do that yeah
and so i'm you know i was laying in bed
and i'm trying to recall scripture
because i'm thinking i need something to
give me hope and comfort and all i could
remember was parts of psalm 23 not the
whole thing but i just remembered some
of it and actually what i remember the
most is that it's a hymn so i just kept
singing to him over and over again to
recall the words um
and that was all i could do and and how
comforting was that how did that aid you
it it was comforting because it was all
you know and i just started praying a
lot i did a lot of praying i just
i it was all i could do was talk to god

in my head yes because i couldn't really do anything else and that that was very comforting but it's still there was still a lot of uncertainty about what things were going to look like and i was very tired so um as i mentioned before i was on life support for 81 days which is a very long time that actually at the time was the longest anyone at that hospital on the um on the life support and which is called ecmo yes um what it does is it takes blood out of your body sends it through it sends it through the machine it oxygenates it it filters it it sends it back in unfortunately a lung outside of your body yes so it oxygenates the blood so you get everything you need from that but the ventilators also keep your lungs moving keep your body moving and you get oxygen that way as well um so between the two it keeps you alive which was necessary for my survival and um unfortunately because there are foreign objects in your body you're susceptible to infection and i was i'm already susceptible to every infection i get i catch them all so i have to be very careful and um and at this level of machinery they foster um susceptibility to super bugs so then you you know you have to take antibiotics to fight against it which fatigues the body even more covet already fatigues the body so i was extremely tired really really tired it was hard some days just to even keep my eyes open and

at a certain point between
being incapacitated
not being able to speak
being so tired being actually ill
physically ill being in complete
isolation except for the nursing care
except for the nursing care which i must
say we're fantastic actually so this is
something i'd like to say
we can get into that in a moment um
so
in that in that place
i would say that was the darkest place
that was where i was having a really
hard time seeing
the light at the end of the tunnel
and i was so exhausted there were times
when i would close my eyes and i just
didn't know
if i would ever open them back up again
until christ returns i hope and pray
and it was uh
at a certain point and i was fighting it
you know you're fighting it a little bit
yes because i want to live i've got a
family and i want to live but at a
certain point i just prayed you know
whatever your will is for me i accept it
so i want to come back to that i want to
first of all just underline to our
brethren how powerful the psalms are and
so we've been going through these psalms
and somehow i think they're able to
capture
very deep emotion and we don't know what
experiences we're going to have in the
future but sometimes the emotion is
captured in a particular psalm as you
experienced i want to come back to what
you just said around this sort of
darkest moment and
this realization you came to
but first i want to just explore
the support of the nursing staff

these are humans that are caring for you
and your interaction with them
and also the support of the brethren
uh you know were you aware of how many
people were praying fasting for you and
then how did that help you through so
first the nursing staff
then the brethren how did that help you
through this
very lonely
period
the nursing staff were my cheerleaders
literally
i mean literally
any time that i was able to do something
even
minutes that's hinting at recovery they
were
dancing and jumping and
and and yippee
and you know when i
anytime the first time i was able to
sort of with their help push myself up
to sitting in the bed
um it was a cheerleading the first time
i was able to stand on my own the first
time i walked with the walker um a few
steps they were out in the hall
screaming and all other nurses from the
hall came running into so it sounds like
this is not a place of people coming in
and recovering and it's like a place of
darkness really people die here
so so your recovery must have been
really encouraging to them people in icu
are very sick yes in the bed that was
beside me then the time that i was in
icu there were six people that occupied
that bed
four of them died
i was told repeatedly by nursing and
doctors the nursing staff and the
doctors that
the results they were seeing with me

are very rare
they do not so for someone who was that
sick yes they do not see recovery
and many times they go home at the end
of their shift defeated yes everything
they've done and they're they're they're
they're
serving these patients
they're trying to preserve life but
they're watching it deteriorate and
deteriorate and when they get home they
just think you know what why am i doing
this it's it's sometimes hopeless
and then they say you know working with
somebody like you
we go home and we have hope again like
and i think there is exactly and i think
like you it's not just the recovery i
think it's your optimism i think it's
how grateful you are how positive you
are that's got to be a real reward for
them well
praise god for that at a point i wasn't
at a point i was so tired and exhausted
that it was
it was hard to be full of sunshine of
course but the nursing staff were for me
and they shawn a light on
the fact that that is helpful
and so
when they did that for me
i thought
you know god let me do that for them wow
and so any time that somebody walked
into the room i thanked them for
whatever they did and every time that i
thanked them i filled with sunshine
and so what i found was instead of being
tired and discouraged
i became full of hope and it was like
god flipped a switch for me
and then the days that were long because
when i when i
couldn't move and i was

feeling defeated

all i had to do all i could do was stare
at the walls and i'm looking at the wall
in front of me there's a clock and i'm
watching the second hand tick tick yeah
all day long and then i'm thinking don't
look at that don't look at that when i
look up and all you see are ceiling
tiles with little holes you start
counting you think don't don't look at
that don't look at that and so you're
trying to find ways to fill your time
and there there are 24 hours it's a lot
of time to film and in icu i don't if
anybody's ever been in icu you cannot
sleep right it is noise 24 7. it's crazy
all the time

you can't sleep there's machines beeping
if it's not yours it's somebody else's
and you can just hear everything so i
love what you say about gratitude it
reminds me of my grandmother actually
she was on her deathbed and she was
making everybody laugh yes and so this
ability not to be so self-centered not
to care about others so you must be
quite a positive best medicine and
actually i built some really great
relationships with the medical staff
through sense of humor right you know
sometimes a little clean sarcasm yeah
and a joker to go a long way and i found
the more that i did that and the more
that i was their chili cheerleaders the
same way that they were mine um we
created a bond and they would you know
any time that they were finishing a
shift and maybe working with another
patient down the hall they want to make
sure they pop over well they'd be
walking down the hall and they'd hear oh
did you hear lisa did this today and
they would actually stop at the end of
their shift rather than just go home

they would stop they would gown up
because they had to get out yes
and come in so they would make that
extra effort just to come and see me
to say that they really they knew what i
had done today and to encourage me and
to get me to keep going like just keep
going you're doing so great you're going
to go home the next time i'll shift here
i don't want to see you in this icu
anymore power of encouragement yes talk
to me about the brethren and
lessons you learned from the
interactions that you had with brethren
how did you know that so many were
praying for you so many cared for you
and how did that impact you well it
started first with word of mouth every
time that murray would come in
and he came in every day that he
possibly could
every single day and what a
you wanted
you want to talk about the blessing of a
marriage and a life partner
i am incredibly blessed right on um by a
very loyal loving partner um and i am so
thankful for that
um amazing so word of mouth first of all
every time he would come in he would
tell me about all the people that were
praying for me he would read me emails
he would read me messages
um and then um my family did a wonderful
thing they bought this beautiful little
cube that can record it's it it holds
voice recordings and um
and my kids had
people from the murray had people from
the congregation record messages to me
and murray came and played them for me
and some music and that was lovely
um and then murray brought in the cards
and i kid you not when i say there was a

stack of cards wow it took an entire
grocery bag
full of cards so brethren who take the
time
to write cards
thank you what does it what does it mean
so if i take the time to write you a
card and does this does it actually
matter how does it matter
before this experience
it wasn't something that was a top
priority for me if we received a card to
receive a card as long as it's very nice
you know we put it up on the shelf and
and we treasure it and it's great
i was not very diligent in sending cards
out
and it wasn't something that was a top
priority for me
when i saw this stack of cards and i
started reading
all of the messages that were
handwritten
that people took the time
to
write out words of encouragement not
just
send a card with a pre-scripted they
would actually take the time to sign
their names to write a little message to
put little hearts on it to put stickers
inside and some brethren you hadn't
heard from for a while some brethren we
had not heard from for a long long time
and some i didn't even know why some
were just unknown to me
they knew of me because of the
broadcasts or because of our
congregation here and maurice gives
messages online
and they were so
supportive of us of murray encouraging
and you know i was reading all it took
me forever to read through the cards

which is great because you want to kill
your dick
but it was so nice
it was
so uplifting
so for you know for everyone who took
the time to send messages
to write cards i thank you very much i
felt your prayers i felt the
encouragement i felt the love um it was
a big you know there was a definite
turning point for me
a point where i just
i just surrendered completely to god yes
you shared that with me before i think
brethren would find that interesting so
it could have gone either way
um when did you know you were going to
get better
um so
there was a point where so
when they're trying to
get you to when you're coming out of
sedation and you're more and more
conscious
they want you to start
making your lungs work yourself instead
of the machines doing all the work and
it's really hard and it hurts a lot
and you feel like you're suffocating
because even though you're getting
enough oxygen
the fact that the machines are pumping
it in
it it's it's kind of foreign to the body
so
when you become conscious and they're
trying to get you to breathe
um your oxygen needs are really high but
your lung capacity is very low
so um if i felt like i was drowning for
a long time like at least a few weeks
like really drowning like really
dramatic like you might die drowning and

i've and i've had a near-death
experience with drowning a couple you
know so i know what that feels like it's
not pleasant
and and especially since you can't move
and you feel like you're drowning
it it's very it's very confining
um and i and i was fighting like i said
uh because i want to live of course i
want to breathe it's that instinct that
we have right but you it's like
someone's sitting on your chest and you
can't you just can't breathe
and how long does this happen going on
for is this a day a couple of days oh it
was a few weeks a few weeks was quite a
long time because every time that they
succeed in
lowering your oxygen needs a little bit
they lower the oxygen so that your body
has to keep working
so you're basically in that same state
they keep even though you're getting
better yeah because they want to make
you work for it because you have to you
have to rebuild and is this is this a
feeling of panic or is it a feeling for
me it is yes because when you can't when
i couldn't breathe it was panic so
um
that i found extremely difficult
and so at a certain point
i had to just
i had to just let go
which was the hardest thing to do it was
the very hardest thing to do
i was so exhausted let go as in
i'm not gonna work so hard or let go as
in okay i might drown i might die like
let go like how exactly that where i
just i was so exhausted my eyes were
closing and i just
was praying to god and i said you know
what god i'm so tired i feel like this

might be it
i don't know what your will is for me
but whatever it is i accept it and i let
go and i fell asleep
and when i woke up i had no problem
breathing wow
and then there was just joy everywhere i
had to let go i just had to let go and
give in
and surrender completely which is so
symbolic of our spiritual walk you have
to stop
fighting
you just have to let god do what he's
going to do so you want to live but now
you're just conforming to god's will
so whatever god's will is and you just
relax now yes and i guess because you're
relaxing the lungs can actually do what
they need to do and then when i woke up
it was you know within a day or two
you know that and the nurses are so
positive i just every time i'd open my
eyes
um you know i was still sleeping a lot
in those days but every time i'd open my
eyes i'd look out the window and i could
see that the sun was shining and it's oh
thank you for the sunshine that's great
you know if it was raining i'd say oh
what a what a nice day to be you know
curled up in bed if i were at home i'd
be drinking hot chocolate right now just
curled up in bed and i just started to
have this joy
you know when every time that the nurses
came in they they'd send me some joy and
i'd send some back and it just increased
wow it grows it multiplies and i thought
what a wonderful thing
and so i thought well let me keep
running with this this is great it's a
great feeling beautiful you know i
haven't stopped yet beautiful so i think

that life is um
many of you know our brother uh jan
kwelchek who also speaks
you know he
we were having a really deep spiritual
discussion one time and
and it was about life and preserving
life and he said you know life is
precious we need to we need to
we need to treasure the life that god
gives us and we shouldn't be so quick to
give up on it
you know we need to really push and
fight for it
and that kept coming to my mind as well
that i need to fight for this
that this is precious and everything is
a gift
and i'll take i thought you know
i i praise god for all that he does
i believe that if he if i'm still awake
and i can feel like i'm improving
then i believe he's going to restore me
to a point where i can still serve i can
still be a blessing to others and so i
just kept praying for that and i
remember my wife saying i just got a
slack message from lisa it was the
strangest thing oh i was so excited when
i could finally text again yeah it was
really weird it was like wow
i wanted to pick up my phone to be able
to answer messages or or or you know
reach out to people but every time i
move my arms you know when you want to
text you have to bend yes and and that
yeah just ring all the bells start
ringing you don't the nurses are not
your cheerleaders when you do that so i
had to you know pick and choose my
moments or i'd ask them you know can you
please just give me five minutes and i'd
like to send a quick one off
and then and i'd say you know come back

in five minutes and
they'd kind of mute the machines and
then put them back on for me
um i i want to ask you about the
cheerleading again because i heard
murray told us that when it was time for
you to leave maybe talk about that
because you built such a great
relationship with them you were so
positive um yeah sure hear that what a
moment it uh
they
when the day that i was leaving
they came in a couple of nurses came
into my room and brought me a balloon
um and a card and it was hand signed
by all the nursing staff on that floor
wow um and it was full the card was full
and i think they were kind of trying to
throw me off their trail a little bit
um you know a couple of nurses came in
and you know you're leaving today you
know it's sad to see you go
five or six nurses on the ward that came
in to say goodbye
and you know that was great and then
when my the paramedics came to take me
out um because i had to go out on a
stretcher um
they pulled out of the room and turned
into the hallway
and the hallway was lined
and my room was about halfway down the
hall it was lined all the way to the end
to the elevators with nurses doctors wow
all the medical centers the busy doctors
took the time yes and they were cheering
and they had planned in advance for this
wow and they were all there and they
were hooting and hollering and cheering
and we got oh i oh i was so moved
it was such a lovely experience and when
we got to the end of the hall and turned
into um the alcove for the elevators the

paramedic that was behind me was really
choked up and he said wow
wow i'm all choked up he's like i think
i'm crying
and i and i asked him i said do they do
that for everyone and he said oh no they
definitely pick and choose their
favorites
and i thought wow what a i hope and pray
that i was a light to them and i you
know you were every chance that i felt i
could sneak it in i would mention god's
name
and i and i just hoped that i could be a
light and a beacon of
of of encouragement and and
i think when they're dealing with life
and death every day they have to at some
point acknowledge god is in the mix here
especially when it's such a miraculous
many many of them do believe yes many of
them do believe um
and you know you're able to connect a
little bit talk to us a bit um about
coming home what you appreciated
uh coming back to our congregation
uh what was that so and things that we
might take for granted is every day we
live at home we have our some some of us
have congregations and we still don't
don't attend um
tell us about that and what you're
grateful for everything is magical
it is um i first of all i didn't expect
to get home as soon as i did yes i was
actually expecting to be in the hospital
at least another month or so
um but
i was doing so well god was restoring so
quickly
that i was amazing even the staff there
they were like wow you know it was i'd
do physio one day they would give me
exercises and by the next day it was too

easy and they had to give me something
different i got to tell you murray
showed us a video of you walking when
you were at the hospital and i looked at
your eyes
and i just thought wow determination
this is a fighter it's uh it's amazing
what god can put in you
and you if you hold on to it so
at one point you know we talked i was
discouraged and it was really difficult
to even sit up because
sitting up you're just so tired and
exhausted so lightheaded i just would
pass out wow it was i'd be sitting and
they'd be counting to like one minute i
just couldn't sit up anymore because
everything is going dark and you get all
dizzy and it was so difficult and you
know what it's really easy to just flop
back yeah
it's really easy to lay back down and
they'll let you wow if you want to i'll
tell you i didn't i didn't see that in
the video
no at some point um
it occurred to me
the only way i'm getting out of here is
if i do it
that's the only way i'm going to get out
of here because you can lay back and
and you know huh whatever let let the
new let the nursing staff do their work
let the medical staff do their work and
do it for you and you can allow that
or
you can get up and you can do the work
and it's tiring it's really tiring and
i'll tell you it's hard work like it
actually
sometimes the physio was so hard and it
was such an ab workout that i was
actually physically ill
like when you do a really hard workout

yeah yeah yeah um
yeah because the lungs are trying to
keep up with all of this right yep and
it's and when you lose
when you lose muscle mass like you do
laying very very still you have to
rebuild that like the muscles the
muscles weaken very very quickly and i
didn't i didn't understand that another
good spiritual uh analogy it doesn't
take long to lose it move it or lose it
right exactly and it's the same with
bible study prayer fasting meditation
you know if you it's easy to break a
habit yes it's really easy to break a
habit it's harder to build that habit
um and once you have it it's good to
maintain
it and don't let it go
you said earlier everything's magical
you come back home yeah things that we
take for granted uh just talk to us
about it but you have to do the work
yeah you have to do the work because
um
so when i got home
everything is physio for me everything
so it would be really easy
for murray to let him get everything yes
yes and he would and he would yeah he
absolutely would but i can't do that
yeah i need to do the work
and um it's a joy to do
and the the mindset that i got too
was and i'm so thankful that god put
this into my head
is that you know
let me just do the work
when i'm done
i can sit down and pass out yeah that's
okay and i learned that in the hospital
bed right
at a certain point like when i was still
in icu and i was doing physio i was

learning how to walk and trying to stand
there's the the medical staff is all
around you

and they're very good at what they do
and they will make they will not let you
fall right so i just went you know what
i'm going for it i'm just going to go
for it and if i pass out they'll catch
you yeah yeah very good i'm gonna do it
until i pass out

and i and a couple times i did wow a
couple times i did wow and it wasn't the
end of the world no i just barely made
it back to the edge of the bed before i
fell back but i thought it wasn't the
end of the world they just had a little
rest

so so this wasn't just your trial it was
uh pastor murray's trial as well maybe
it'd be good if you could join us pastor
murray and hear hear from your side
while he's coming in to

join us um

coming back to the congregations like i i
thought like we will see you in months i
was hoping to have you over at our place
in months everything much faster than we
thought um just quickly comment on
coming back to the congregation and then
i want to talk to customers oh coming
back was such a joy just first of all
being home with my family yes was so
heartwarming it was so lovely to be in
my home again

um just to

wake up and see their faces
to have them come to the house and have
a coffee wow and that was lovely
coming back things that we would take
for granted yeah things i took for
granted and coming back to the
congregation

was like

uh

completion
wow it filled my heart wow
and i just love it because coming home
is one thing but that's not your whole
family right right this this is my
family yeah yeah and so it was really
wonderful
to be able and of course we had the new
hall when you came and that was the new
development
yes and that uh we're so blessed to have
this and
and we have a you know
lovely lovely family here in our
congregation
and
you were a big part of building this
congregation we were here right from the
beginning in the beginning and actually
most of us have been here right from the
beginning and that's what's created that
sense of stability here
yes and i missed them very much but you
know when i was in hospital um
they they took the time just
to reach out to message to visit as a
matter of fact uh the feast of
tabernacles was just before i was able
to come home um and i was in the
hospital for the feast i was in a
regular ward by then
but um every single day
two i was allowed two visitors per day
and every single day i had two people
wow beautiful and i had i had a joyous
beast
it was lovely wow they came they brought
them and just just maybe for the sake of
the brethren um that maybe don't
really value their congregation
um you put a lot of work into this
congregation
uh and so you then benefited from the
support of the congregation just any

thoughts you have about
the value of of edifying your
congregation it's extremely valuable
it's um it's like this you know the work
you put into raising your children
you'll get back right on the work you
put into your relationship with god
right now you'll get back
and tenfold yeah and more yeah god is
very generous god is merciful he is
loving he is kind
and the more that you give
love
the more it multiplies
and it is so uplifting
and it is so encouraging and it is so
wonderful and it is like a superpower
right on it really is because it keeps
you going it keeps us going keeps you
going uh pastor murray this wasn't just
lisa's trial it was your trial as well
we had many conversations
talk to us a bit about how it was a
trial for you and how you got through
this
the how i got through it was it was
i've been in the church since i was five
so we're going on 45 over 45 years now
and this was really the first trial that
i found
so part of that speaks to leading a
godly life right cause and effect you do
things god's way you don't have the the
consequences of bad behavior
um but we talk about trials we pray
about trials we understand it
conceptually this wasn't conceptual
anymore in fact i think
the week before i got sick my message
was on having joy in this life where i
talked about the
the uh grouped out the uh
group of folks in what rural
pennsylvania that got hit up by a

shooter but yes i remember that
yes and they went to forgive this guy
yeah that was the week before i got sick
and when i say it's my only trial it's
my only trial i've had self-inflicted
problems and i don't call those trials i
call those you know fellows
i can't blame anybody but
yeah this was really the first trial
that i can tap into james one verse i
don't talk about that
so it came suddenly it was very severe
very intense
uh you were expecting potentially to
lose your wife there were four specific
days where i had resigned i'd come to
the same spot at least i'd come to you
to say okay this is what else is it um
and
um early on the first couple of days
that was it was it was dark for me it
was it was just a new experience i i
wasn't i never was mad at god
uh there was a first couple of weeks
that i had nothing to say i was so
emotionally drained i would go for walks
i walked all the time i've got a nice
beach air beach front area here i did a
lot of walking
um was that shock was that anger was
that deep sadness
you said you had nothing to say to god
what was it it wasn't anger for sure
because i tried
um i was i hadn't considered the word
shock it was probably shock
um was it just like you were just
overwhelmed
i it was
the only way i can describe it is i
actually had nothing to say
um and um i hope i never get there again
mm-hmm uh and i wasn't mad yes
absolutely i was never angry not for a

sec just

what do i say i have nothing to say and
you said something to me about somebody
saying to you i'm praying for you and
that that whole experience so we were
talking about here and a lot of what
you're talking about is the impact of
the brethren well one of our sisters
here sister abba sent me a song
and uh the song was i'll pray for you
and we say that

yeah i'll pray for you

the gist of the song

is when you're at your deepest you're
your lowest and you can't pray

i'll pray

40. so you don't have to wow very very
good

very very good um trial for both of you

how has it blessed your marriage now

right there's a there's a positive side

of the trial there's a

a deep appreciation yeah

i say thank you a lot wow i say thank

you a lot as we all should as we all

should and for me for me

i sweat those small things a lot

and i think

you mean like as a person yeah just as

a my natural character is to sweat the

small things yes that's not that's not

necessarily the right christian way the

right godly way to be but we're all made

up of you're a detailed guy and you want

everything to be right and uh i'm

learning to

sweat less okay just because of a place

of gratitude or a big picture or

whatever the bigger picture some of the

small things that you worry about aren't

right

worthy of right worthy of your

this experience put things in the proper

focus they become small potatoes yeah

right on right on there are bigger
things in life
as we as we wrap up maybe
talk to us about if you can
key lessons that
you could share with the brethren this
being one of them that
you know put things in the proper
perspective put things in the proper
perspective one one thing i would really
love to share
is the way that the medical team works
together in the icu
this was a great spiritual lesson for
interesting and one of the things that
made me realize i need to be saying
thank you a lot more
is that
when they were caring for people and
especially icu
patients in icu are extremely sick
and many times they're incapacitated so
you need a team of people just to move
them shift them change them
um do medical procedures and they need
to be they need to know what they're
doing
someone needs to be in charge and they
need to be efficient
and
they need to be respectful of one
another of each other and work as a team
and so time after several times a day
i would i would witness this
they would come in and we all know there
are personalities outside of that room
they may not like each other very much
but when they were at that bedside you
would never know as much as they were
cheering me on they cheered each other
on wow someone the head nurse that the
nurse designers would take charge
and would very clearly and effectively
communicate and direct the others as to

what their roles were and what they were
doing
um
they would
there was no time for bickering
backstabbing
there was just no time for nonsense wow
it was all about unity
and it was all about taking care of the
task at hand yes for the best interest
of the patients
and i thought
what a wonderful lesson for us as
christians on
that we need to be
focused on encouraging each other
working together communicating clearly
responding to leadership and it's okay
that there's a leader there is a leader
yeah take direction yeah
know what your job is and you would
you've been given that job because you
have a specialty
and there's an outcome that we're all
working towards the profusionist is the
only one who is able to deal with the
wires
of the equal machine you know the head
nurse needs to take charge um
the health care aid
is there as a helping hand and will do
whatever they're asked to do
so accept your task
know your specialty
perform it to the best of your ability
forget the nonsense
and move forward wow brilliant
and it was it was a it was a great
lesson it was an eye-opener i thought
you know
shame on us that we're not this
efficient yeah we should be yeah and i
think if we don't have purpose if we uh
lose our purpose then you get into these

sort of petty
things that that are inconsequential but
once we're clear on the outcome and the
focus then we work together as a team
yeah of customers for me honest the
lesson would be the importance of being
in a congregation being in the body
you know man was not meant to be alone
god said so himself
um i have a wonderful marriage and i'm
happy she's still here but for 140 days
she wasn't that i was little

[Music]

wow
the impact of 140 days
in the hospital and going back to that
that uh the song that was sent to me
it's it's things like that help you
through
you know one brother said uh there's
going to be times when you don't want to
talk to people you want to be alone give
me a call because that's when you did
that wow
wow so it was really the impact of the
brethren
as lisa said cards and people fasting
and
and all of these things we i've taken
for granted for 40 years you know
somebody's sick okay well we're
including an intercessory prayer
um
it's the importance of being in the
community
you are known by the community your
contributions are known so when you fall
on hard times people respond because
they know you
but i think if you are off in the
periphery of people know okay somebody
needs prayer but if we don't know you
it's hard to be as engaged as when
people actually know you and know your

contributions for sure and you know um
i know
all that they did for lisa and lisa was
talking about brethren coming during the
feast they drove two hours one way
after services to come and visit and
then i had to get back home but get back
to the future yes
for me i don't know that i i don't know
how i would have survived the same
without the brother report
final note i want to just come back to
is where you actually started lisa this
whole notion of fear
and i've got to say i'm actually
astonished
by how much fear i see in the body of
christ
i i expect fear in the natural
the sort of the natural man
who doesn't have god
of course these are fearful times
i don't expect to see that in the body
of christ but i see too much of it
um you have been face to face with death
uh both of you accepted god's will
any comments any encouragement that you
can give us
around facing our fears and and really
trusting god
well i think you can feed it or you can
let it go
and
when i was feeling discouraged and
and you know losing a bit of hope
i was feeding it
and and it becomes an endless cycle
you know you you you worry about this
and you worry about that you know will i
ever be able to walk again or you know
it hurts so much to breathe you know
when am i ever going to be able to
breathe am i going to have an oxygen
real fear you know yeah am i going to be

on oxygen for the rest of my life am i
am i even going to live to see tomorrow
so you can you can perpetuate it
or you can you can let it go
and trust that
everything that god does is for good
so and nothing in this life
i can take with me
i can't i can't take anything with me
so trying to save my own skin
and trying to fight for this physical
life is not what's important the healing
that i'm looking for
is my spiritual healing
so
i just learned to accept that
maybe i would never walk again i didn't
know
but if god heals my heart and refines me
further and allows me to serve his
people in some way that's enough life
for me
and if he decides that this life is done
and it
he doesn't need my service anymore i
accept that then it's done
but you have to be able to accept what
he gives you need to surrender
and when you do that there's great
comfort in it there's peace in it and
like psalm 23
you know he's with you
and and he furnishes your table
and he makes you to lie in green
pastures
you just have to accept the gift
whatever it is you have to accept
whatever it is
and so
whatever restoration he gives me
whatever health he gives me
i'm going to fight for it i'm going to
do the work and i'm going to accept what
he gives me and i'm just going to move

forward with joy
because if i don't
what honor am i giving my father
you know i i'll take every blessing he
gives me and i'll run with it
and
it's not worth my time to fear because
then
then
satan gets his foot in the door
and and i refuse and i think as well
life is so precious and so short
and this
these interactions that we have with
each other these relationships that we
have with each other are such a blessing
to be caught up in pettiness while life
is slipping away i think it's such a
danger
yeah my experience uh i had a similar
experience as lisa did coming too so i
was talking a little bit about when i
couldn't pray and after a couple of
weeks
the shock wore off
and then 100 watch it being 140 days
it's a lot of time to consider what what
are the options um you have no choice
but to surrender uh or you'll go mad
uh so i found myself at the same spot
surrendering and it's just you know
um um
i'm i
i surrendered here whatever will be will
be and i praise you for that
and the second thing i come back to is
is the congregation
we weren't meant to be alone and i was
never alone and i'm grateful for that
wow well we are very very grateful for
both of you and just personally
uh you're a big part of my life
your family uh and i really really
deeply appreciate both of you i

appreciate your ministry i i just i have
to pinch myself that i have a ministry
with you it's an honor and a privilege
to serve god together yeah and lisa i
know you're a big part of murray's
ministry
the the power behind the the man oh no
the wind's beneath
my wings yeah there you go
so you really support each other um and
you're a great blessing to the
congregation i certainly hope that uh
this conversation uh has been a great
blessing to our brother and i just
thought it's uh
you know psalms is such a heartfelt uh
passage or scripture
and many times it's at the macro level
but many times it's down at the
individual level and the personal
suffering and the personal relationship
with god and i think uh sister lisa we
thank you and pastor murray thank you
for just sharing your personal
experience to me it brings the psalms to
life
this faithfulness that we can have in
god despite the sufferings that we go
through and also how these sufferings
actually strengthen us
thank you so much for being thank you
for having me thanks for having me yeah
and brethren thank you so much for
tuning in uh so next week we'll continue
with the book of songs god bless all of
you uh thank you so much thank you
you