“HE ANSWERED, “THE MAN CALLED JESUS MADE MUD, SPREAD IT ON MY EYES, AND SAID TO ME, ‘GO TO SILOAM AND WASH.’ THEN I WENT AND WASHED AND RECEIVED MY SIGHT.””

JOHN 9:11
I WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE. WHAT IF THE SELF QUARANTINES, SHUT DOWNS, CANCELLATIONS, AND POSTPONEMENTS, ARE THE MUD? THEY ARE THE THINGS ALLOWING US TO PREPARE FOR NEW VISION. MANY OF US KNOW THE WISE WORDS IN PSALM, “BE STILL AND KNOW”, WHAT IF THIS IS A SEASON OF US DOING THAT? WHAT IF IN THIS SEASON WE ARE CALLED TO BE STILL IN A TIME OF CONFUSION AND CHAOS, AND FIGURE OUT A LITTLE BIT MORE OF WHO WE KNOW GOD TO BE? THE BLIND MAN DID NOT KNOW JESUS TO BE A HEALER PERSONALLY UNTIL HE PLACED A FAITH SO BOLD, HIS SIGHT WAS RESTORED.
SO EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE MANY EMOTIONS ABOUT OUR CURRENT STATE, USE THE TIME TO REFLECT AND DISCERN WHO GOD IS FOR YOU. THINK ON THE THINGS THAT ARE STOPPING YOU FROM EXPERIENCING NEW SIGHT. AND LASTLY REMEMBER TO LOVE GOD, EVERYONE YOU MEET, AND YOURSELF. EVEN THE BLIND CAN EXPERIENCE GOD’S LOVE.

MATTHEW 7:24-26
It is safe to say the storm has blown through our lives. You might even say it’s still raging. The response to COVID-19 has affected almost every aspect of our world, our community, and our personal lives. Some of these changes have been small, like washing my hands for a long 20 seconds instead of a hurried 15. But some of these changes have been big, like special events cancelled, my normal routine disrupted, my job put on hold, and missing my friends and social circles. All of this upheaval has made me realize just what kind of foundation I’ve built my life on. You see, in the perfect weather, when everything is still and quiet, it can seem like my foundation is good and strong. But when the winds blow and the rains come, that’s when my house is really put to the test.
Reading this Scripture recently made me pause and ask, “What things have I built the foundation of my life on that can’t truly support me?” For me, the answer has been my work, my social life, my extracurriculars, my school. These things are wonderful and important, but maybe I’ve used the right material in the wrong place. I’ve made them my foundation when they needed to be the walls or the furniture in the house. Because when those things disappeared or changed shape, I found that my entire house suddenly felt unstable.
Maybe this is just the time we need to check our foundation - to see if we’ve truly built our house, our life on God’s love and God’s word. Because that’s the one thing that will never change. Everything else in our house can get rearranged or thrown out, but if our foundation is God, we can weather any storm.
Reflect:
What has this time of change and uncertainty revealed about your foundation? How can you spend time working on that foundation today?

March 25, 2020
“Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"”

Psalms 46:8-10 ESV
When reading verse 10, often times we focus in on “Be still.” Now I am all here for sitting still, soaking everything in, and just being. But recently when reading this chapter, I noticed a different part of the verse, “Know that I am God.”
What does it really mean to know that He is God? Obviously as believers we know He is God. But I think it goes beyond that. I think this verse is a way of encouraging us to get to know Him as a person. Knowing God for who He is, and not just what he does for us. Knowing that he is grace, he is peace, and he is love.
I encourage you to take this time of isolation to not only be still, but to get to know God and who he is to you.
Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.

John 14:27
Jesus told us we would face trouble in this world; he says there will be times when we want to give up and seek comfort else where. Right now the world is facing trouble; many of us might be losing hope as we hear of more cancellations, shutdowns, and postponements every day.
These are the times we may feel like giving up. I know I’ve felt this way, and it’s completely normal to feel this way; however, Jesus also tells us that he will be with us and not even death could separate us from him. He is living proof that the God of this marvelous world is stronger than any obstacle we face.
During these obstacles try to remember that Love will show us the way through. Bob Goff reminds us: “Our hope isn’t in our ability to overcome but in God’s ability to redeem it.”
DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD. AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7
These verses tell us not to be anxious, and to give our anxiety to God. Today with everything that our world is facing it’s hard not to be anxious, but even in these difficult times God is telling us to stop and breathe and talk to him. When we pray we find the peace of God, even though everything is not turning out the way we want right now by praying it assures us that God is in control.
Other things might be going on in your life that you’re anxious about, like getting schoolwork done, home life etc., but we’ve got to give all our stress and anxiety to God because once we’ve given it to Him it’s not ours to deal with anymore, He will take care of everything.
There is good in every situation, you’ve just got to breathe and try to focus on it. I know I have appreciated being with my family and spending some quality time with them. There’s also lots of time for rest, that’s what we usually crave during the week right? Some people might miss the chaotic, busy days, but in some ways maybe this is God telling those people to slow down.
It can be tough to hear Paul say “do not be anxious about anything”. But think about the circumstances Paul was in when he wrote this, it wasn’t exactly an anxious free situation. He of all people had so many reasons to be anxious but he wasn’t he wrote this and then he let go of all of his anxiety.
Let’s all be about the same work as Paul, letting go of our anxious spirit, centering ourselves on God in this moment so that we can help build His Kingdom.