

We Have Been Here Before

"The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior." Google cannot quite decide who was the first to share this proverb, some sites attribute it to psychologist B.F. Skinner while others say author Mark Twain or a host of others. Regardless of who the quote rightfully belongs to, most people agree with the sentiment.

Whose behavior is predictable to you based on past associations? Do you know how a spouse, child, sibling or friend will respond in certain situations? Do you ever find yourself saying: "I knew you were going to say that!" or, "I knew that's how you would react!" I find that in my own life, I am rarely surprised by those closest to me because I know them and love them for who they are.

In today's text, Isaiah 64:1-9 says, in part:

"For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways."

The prophet Isaiah is reminding God's people that they have been in difficult situations many times. He leads the people in calling for God to act again on behalf of his people- as He has done before. Yes, waiting on God can require patience. The children of Israel labored in Egypt a looong time before God led them to the Promised Land. Abraham and Sarah waited a looong time to have their promised son. We have a God who is with us while we wait and He listens when we call upon Him to act. The longest wait was perhaps waiting on His promise to send a Savior. He did keep that promise as Jesus was born in the most unexpected of ways and places but, the promise was kept.

Now, we wait again. We wait for Jesus to return and take us home to live with Him forever. We have a God with a perfect track record of keeping promises and we place our trust in Him to do it again. As we wait, let us call out to Him who we know is listening. Let us share His name with a world that needs to know who he is. Let us praise with confidence a God we know well from what he has done, Amen.

~ Eric Gerken, Director of Family & Youth Ministry