**Wednesday 26th August**

Psalm 112: 4 – 8a

Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
    they will be remembered for ever.  
They will have no fear of bad news;  
    their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.  
Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;

It’s a strange time to read the news. Every day there are headlines to make your heart sink. Fears of a ‘second wave’; depressing statistics on the economy; chaos around the world; unrest and human tragedy. Here the Psalmist says that as Christians we will have no fear of bad news. I remember a time in my life when so much seemed to be going wrong – we were hit with wave after wave of bad news, so much so that whenever the phone rang I would feel anxiety about the message that the caller was bearing before I even answered it. It can be hard to remain hopeful in those times. But God doesn’t want us to be living in fear of bad news. The Psalmist is not saying that bad things won’t happen. He’s not recommending denial or an unrealistic outlook. Rather, that in following Jesus we have a bigger Truth to determine our inner world. We have a security that we are in the hands of the Living God who loves us and will never leave us and who is able to work all things together for our good. So whatever the news holds today, keep trusting in the One who holds you.

<https://youtu.be/n0FBb6hnwTo>

*Father, thank you for your goodness. Thank you for your love that endures forever.  Thank you that you are working your purposes out. We bring you the news today [spend some time praying about a situation that concerns you]. Thank you that you are the Sovereign Lord God and that we can trust you. We pray that you would keep our hearts steadfast, and that we would not be shaken, that you would take away any fear of bad news that we have. Instead give us the peace that comes from knowing that our Father is the ruler of the universe. Amen*

