

For the Journey

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It has been illuminating to say the least watching liberal journalists, commentators and pundits struggle to admit that President Trump has achieved a significant milestone in the long-standing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, more particularly his success at getting Jewish hostages out of a brutal period of captivity. The war begun by Hamas on October 7th, 2023, saw the horrific slaughter of 1200 innocent civilians and the kidnapping of 251 others. As of October 1st, 2025 only 48 hostages remained, 20 of those still alive, only males. Now they're home, most are home. Trump's 20-Point Plan called for the release of all remaining hostages and Hamas agreed to it. It's unlikely the ceasefire will hold since the Plan calls for the complete disarming of Hamas but we'll see.

Meanwhile media elites and retired presidents seem quietly resentful that a man of Trump's vanity, expressed on an almost daily basis, has triumphed in an area of international politics where most seasoned statesmen and stateswomen have struggled or simply failed. They despise everything about the President, his crude history, his bluster and self aggrandizement, his flagrant breaking of etiquette, his rejection of political correctness, and his folksy behaviour. Trump is below the political and journalistic elites, they believe, and as some begrudgingly offer subdued words of congratulations to the Trump administration, it's apparent they'd prefer that all this had happened during Biden's presidency.

President Trump is certainly an unusual politician but maybe his unusualness is precisely why he was able to achieve what he has in the Israel/Gaza conflict, and the gathering of 30 world leaders in Egypt just days after in support of the ceasefire and plan. He's unorthodox, but it was an equally unorthodox President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt who achieved a great deal in his time as president, and afterward. He came up with the phrase, "walk softly and carry a big stick." Trump's version might read, "walk noisily, walk rambunctiously, and carry a big stick."

All of this causes me to ponder who God calls into service and how God calls. Most often in scripture it's not the most qualified who are called, it's not those with pedigree and training. Not the expected ones. When God summoned Moses from a burning bush and appointed him saviour of the enslaved Hebrew peoples in Egypt, Moses (who was on the run after killing a man) responded by objecting eight times, challenging God's insistence, confessing his own shortcomings. Later Paul, a bounty hunter tasked with rounding up Christians for arrest or worse, was interrupted while travelling to Damascus, his life immediately transformed by the risen Christ. Regardless of Mr. Trump's spirituality, whether it's a passionate faith or a more part-time religion, would God deign to break into the life of such a man, with or without his consent, to affect change for the good, the common good? So what if he is openly campaigning for a Nobel Peace Prize next year, or if he boasts of his accomplishments, or if he's chummy with Argentina's President Milei, or if he doesn't like the photo Time Magazine chose for its cover. As scripture declares, "the wind blows where it chooses", God's Spirit rests upon those God chooses, and who are we to put boundaries around God?

Of course what may apply to President Trump applies to us as well. A wise commentator once said "It is not possible to live an uncalled life." If we feel totally incapable, like Moses, or if we're going in a completely different life direction, like Paul, it doesn't matter. If the Lord wants to use you, He will make it happen.

Thanks be to God that the final hostages have been released!
Thanks be to God that a ceasefire is in effect!
Thanks be to God that even the unqualified, uncouth, imperfect ones of our world may be called by the Living God for kingdom work.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dave.