

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon

May 8, 2024

**"A Long Time Coming"**



I've been reading how the University of Kentucky basketball program struggled in its beginning. In 1930, Adolph Rupp took the head coaching job. Though Rupp had some early success, the school did not have its first national championship until 1948 - eighteen years after Rupp took the helm. What is the longest time you've ever worked toward a goal or waited for something to change?

The gospels tell the story of a woman who waited eighteen years for a blessing—long enough to wonder if it would ever happen. Luke, the physician, doesn't offer a diagnosis except that it is an ailment of the spirit. Is it mental or physical? Whatever it is, the weight makes it so that she walks bent over.

There is so much we don't know about her. We don't know her name or where she lived. Here is what we do know: she does not use her situation as an excuse. She gets out and goes and makes her way to church. On this day, Jesus is there, too.

When Jesus touches her, a miracle happens. She stands up straight, no longer burdened by her ailment. Now she is looking up towards the horizon full of blue sky. It had been a long time coming, but the change was worth the wait.

There are places in our lives that need a blessing. Our world is bent and twisted - pressed down by challenges and disasters. It's been that way so long that folks say, "It is what it is." But for those who don't grow weary, there is good news. Jesus is coming, and things are going to get straightened out.

Blessings,