

Sermon Title: When An Insurance Policy Is Not Enough

Preacher: Rev. Marvin A. McMickle, Ph.D.

Bible Passage: Luke 23:44-49 (NIV)

Date: Sunday, June 18, 2023

### **Scripture:**

*<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."<sup>[a]</sup> When he had said this, he breathed his last.*

*<sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."<sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

### **Sermon Notes:**

Dr. McMickle reminded us of the dramatic moment in the 1992 Olympic Games involving British-African sprinter Derek Redmond. He was unable to make it to the finish line in the 400 meter race because he had torn his Achilles tendon. Even so, Redmond began to hop toward the finish line on his one good foot rather than give up the race. Redmond's father was seated in the crowd at the time and, seeing his son's distress and determination, jumped down onto the field and provided the support and strength his son needed to hop his way to the finish line. They finished that race together.

That story reminds us of some of the many promises of today's insurance companies: "You're in good hands with Allstate"; "Nationwide is on your side"; "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there"; etc. These promises remind us of the story of Jesus in Luke 23. He was in the last moments of his life - tortured, agonizing and abandoned. There were no "hands" assuring him he could make it except the hands of His Father. The problem we face is there are three differences between insurance company hands and the hands Jesus was talking about:

### **Sermon Points:**

With a Life Insurance Policy

1. We can be denied over pre-existing conditions,
2. We pay the premiums, but somebody else is the beneficiary
3. Life Insurance benefits are distributed only after we die.

God's Assurance policy provides and guarantees:

1. God does not hold our pre-existing condition (sin) against us.
2. God takes us from our pre-existing condition to wherever God wants us to be.
3. God, through Jesus Christ, has issued an Assurance policy that keeps us from dying in this dark and evil world.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How would you describe your "pre-existing condition?" (Be specific rather than generic.)
2. What did or does God do about your "pre-existing condition?" (Be specific rather than generic.)
3. What does it mean to commit yourself into God's hands?
4. Do you have "hope" for America? Why or why not?
5. What Assuring role does Jesus play in your life?
6. What was your "takeaway" from the sermon that you plan to apply to your life?