

When I think of Easter I think of sunshine, warm weather and colorful short-sleeved outfits. But this rain today is the best Easter weather I ever remember. We haven't had much rain lately. The reservoir is low. The city tells us we have only a few months of water left. I try to imagine what Cameron will look like after we run out of water. All I can think of is those scenes from old cowboy movies where they ride their horses dodging tumbleweeds along dusty roads littered with the bleached bones of longhorn cattle. That'll be Cameron. Seriously, it has been a problem. We have prayed for rain a lot, and received rain a little. We had to obtain permission from the city tonight to light a fire and to fill a font with water.

We need water to live. The founders of Cameron built this city along a rail line, not on the banks of a river, not on the shore of a sea. They relied on rain. They'd be proud of us today. This drought is teaching our town the importance of unity. We use water more sparingly. We sacrifice together for the common good. The absence of water brings us the presence of one another.

As bad as the drought is, people haven't given up on the weather. I hear folks say, "Spring rains will come." They believe it. I've been praying for rain on Easter, because there's an old saying that if it rains on Easter Sunday it will rain for seven Sundays.

Rain makes great Easter weather. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" Even if you have no money, come and drink. Rain has a purpose. God says, "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful. So shall my word be. My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will." God's word waters us and raises our hopes.

Rain is unpredictable. We need it, we believe it will come, but we don't know when or how much. The same is true of God's word. We need it, we believe it will come, but we don't know when or how much we will get. Sometimes we go through a drought with God's word; it is hard to pray, hard to decide, hard to believe. At other times, God's presence is so strong we can feel it; we can drink it.

As there is a purpose for rain, there is a purpose for God's word. This Easter let us celebrate our faith in Christ. Faith unites us. Faith helps us sacrifice, and faith assures us that God will shower us with blessings.