

## ON THE EDGE

***Jumping up, they mobbed him, and forced Him on the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push Him over the cliff, but He passed right through the crowd and went on His way.***

***(Luke 4: 29:30)***

On Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at approximately 12 noon, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Usually, inaugurations are times for excitement and celebration in the US capital. This year, Washington D.C. was on edge worried about violent protests and uprisings. Much of this feeling of “*On EDGE*” is a result of the incident earlier this month at the U.S. Capital when Trump supporters stormed the building taking it over for a short time. Capital buildings in Washington D.C., as well in other state capitals, were “*on edge*” preparing in case unrest occurred on the inauguration day.

It is sad to see our neighbours to the south having to live “*on the edge*” at this time. A political environment has caused this for the U.S., and a pandemic has caused this for us. We have been “*living on the edge*” so to speak, for nearly ten months. Every step along the way has seen us “*on the edge*”:

School age children like my daughter were “*on the edge*” wondering if they would be allowed to return to school on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> or if they would have to continue online learning,

Parents of these children were “*on the edge*” too wondering if it would happen or not,

Our Provincial leaders are “*on the edge*” with the news that Pfizer will be reducing their shipment of vaccines over the next few weeks,

Restaurants and small businesses are “*on the edge*” wondering if takeout and curbside pickups will be enough to pay the bills and keep them afloat,

Our chief medical officers are “*on the edge*” worrying if the rising case numbers in this second wave will cause the hospitals to be at capacity,

Family members who have parents in long term care facilities are “*on the edge*” worrying about outbreaks in retirement and nursing homes,

Seeing daily COVID-19 cases rise puts us “*on the edge*” wondering if current lockdowns will be extended or additional restrictions added,

Certain days will find us emotionally “*on the edge,*” feeling sad, depressed, worried or frightened,

Even outings to grocery stores or pharmacies may put some people “*on the edge*” worried about their exposure to the virus.

This pandemic has been an endless experience of “*on the edge*” living for us. It is neither an easy nor pleasant place to be. Jesus found Himself “*on the edge*” after having given a sermon in His hometown of Nazareth. At first people were amazed by Jesus’ messages, but then they began to question Him as a result of Jesus being raised in their hometown. The people became angry when Jesus pointed out from the Old Testament examples of when God reached out to the Gentiles when their Jewish ancestors were unbelieving. Furious, they forced Jesus to the edge of a hill on which the town was built and intended to throw Him off. Verse 30 tells us, despite being “*on the edge*,” Jesus passed right through the crowd and went on His way.

Jesus’ example shows us He not only knows the experience of “*on the edge*” living but can also help us get away from the edge. Jesus’ trust in the Father’s timing, guidance and control allowed Him to do this. Jesus is willing to help us get *away from the edge* if we just ask. In fact, He did this for me earlier this week. On Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:10 a.m. I was “*on the edge*” because I had no idea what to write as my message to you. I am always “*on the edge*” whenever I don’t know what to write and have a deadline. I prayed and simply asked Jesus to give me the message He wanted me to write, that would glorify Him and encourage you. Twenty minutes later as I put Daisy’s leash on to take her out for a walk, I spotted the newspaper opened to an article entitled “ON THE EDGE”. As I walked Daisy around the block, the Holy Spirit began speaking and gave me the message that I am sharing with you now. Twenty minutes earlier I was “*on the edge*,” not knowing what to write. Twenty minutes later, I was off the edge knowing exactly the message to write.

What Jesus did for me “*on the edge*” He does for each one of us if we simply turn to Him and ask. If there are days during this pandemic when you are feeling “*on the edge*” physically, emotionally, financially, or spiritually, ask for His help. He knows what it is like being “*on the edge*”. He also knows the right way to no longer be “on the edge”. This “*on the edge*” living that we are going through during this pandemic is going to continue for some time. Thankfully, we have a Saviour who knew this kind of living and can help us get away from it. Unfortunately, the “*edge*” has a way of returning. I may be on “the edge” next Tuesday morning as well if I don’t have a message on my heart by then. I know this. If I ask and if you ask, Jesus will always be there to get us off that “*edge*” again.

***Keep Safe & God Bless***

***Pastor Dean***