

Speaker 1:

Good morning.

Speaker 2:

Morning.

Speaker 1:

And welcome to the Appleton Chapel here in our Memorial Church for our daily service of morning prayers. Our speaker this morning is Dorie Clark, who graduated from the Divinity School here at Harvard in 1997 and who is the Wall Street Journal bestselling author of the Long Game. I invite you please to rise in the recitation of our Responsorial Psalm, which is Psalm number 121 in your black psalter. "I will lift up my eyes into the hills. From whence cometh my help?"

Speaker 2:

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

Speaker 1:

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Speaker 2:

Behold, he [inaudible 00:04:30] neither slumber nor sleep.

Speaker 1:

The Lord is thy keeper. The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

Speaker 2:

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

Speaker 1:

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. He shall preserve thy soul.

Speaker 2:

The Lord shall preserve thy going out [inaudible 00:04:59].

Speaker 1:

You may be seated.

MUSIC:

[inaudible 00:05:21].

Dorie Clark:

From our good friend, First Corinthians 13:4. "Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It does not dishonor others. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps

no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Now, you probably know what comes shortly after that in verse 13. "And now these three remain, faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love." So now let me tell you what the problem with love is. The problem with love is that you have to have faith to get it. In the fall of 1997, I started here at the Div School and I had a good friend there named Susan. And a few years after we graduated, we took a day trip together to Northampton and Susan decided we should visit a psychic.

Now, for years, I remember a lot about that day. We ate ice cream outside. It was beautiful. And I remember how much Susan loved her reading and thought it was spot on. For me, I couldn't even remember, I couldn't even tell you in retrospect what the psychic told me, but I thought it was pretty ridiculous and I very quickly moved on. But years after that, in fact, it was almost 20 years to the day after I entered the Div school, I was back in Northampton. I had been asked to officiate the wedding of some college friends, and I met up with Susan, who I hadn't seen for years. She had moved to Western Mass and we were getting dinner and reminiscing, and she mentioned to me that she had recently gone to see a psychic. And I said, "Oh my gosh, that's so funny. Do you remember that time we took a trip out here and we saw that crazy psychic?" And she said, "That's my psychic." She said, "She was so good. She was so amazing. I've kept her ever since as my psychic."

And I was a little bewildered. I said, "Wow. I don't even remember what her reading for me was, but I just thought it was so off." And Susan starts laughing and Susan says, "Well, I remember what she told you." And it turns out the answer which my subconscious had decided was so preposterous that I blocked it out completely, was that it would be a very, very long time before I found a partner. In my mid-20s, that was not what I wanted to hear. And it also didn't make any sense to me because I always was dating, I always had a girlfriend, and I was sure that it would not be long before one of those relationships clicked and worked out and I found true love. But it didn't. So today I stand before you here at age 45, and I'm finally getting married for the first time one week from today, a three-minute walk away at the Harvard Faculty Club.

And my lovely fiancée, Alexis, is here with us today. And as the apparently prescient psychic predicted, it did actually take me a long time to find true love. And I'll be honest, maybe you felt this way, at times, it was very discouraging. It's like that for any long-term goal in life, the fundamental problem is one of faith. If you order a meal at a restaurant, you don't actually have to have faith that you will receive it. You just wait 10 or 15 minutes and you will find out if you receive it. And in fact, you probably will. But when it comes to things that are meaningful in life, and that could be finding the right partner, it could be being a great parent, it could be building a career that you can be proud of, there is a gap. And sometimes it is a long gap between the intention, in setting the intention, and the fruits of your labor, receiving the result.

I actually wrote a book about this called *The Long Game: How To Be a Long-Term Thinker in a Short-Term World*. And I have found that what is true in business is also true in life. It's like entering a dark tunnel. The problem is you don't know if it's 100 feet and it's going to be an easy journey or if it's 100 miles and you will be slogging for years. No one tells you and there's no way to find out for sure. You have to enter and you have to have faith to do it. You have to learn to look for the little signs of progress and, most importantly, to find value in the journey and to recognize that it's an act of courage to have the faith to persist, because love and all the fruits of faith are worth working for, and when you have to, worth waiting for. Thank you.

Speaker 1:

The night has passed and the day lies open before us. So let us rise to pray with one heart and mind. This prayer is from the collection of Thomas Cranberry. Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray and art want to give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving unto us that which our prayer dare not presume to ask. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. And now let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is a kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please join in the singing of our concluding hymn, hymn number 265, We Come Unto Our Peoples, God.

MUSIC:

We come unto our Savior God with each past generation;
The eternal arms, their dear abode, we make our habitation.
We bring thee, Lord, the praise they brought;
We seek thee as thy saints have sought in every generation.
Their joy unto their Lord we bring, their song to us descendeth;
The Spirit who in them did sing to us his music lendeth;
His song in them, in us, is one;
We raise it high, we send it on--the song that never endeth.
Ye saints to come, take up the strain, the same sweet theme endeavor;
Unbroken be the golden chain! Keep on the song forever!
Safe in the same dear dwelling place, rich with the same eternal grace,
Bless the same boundless giver!

Speaker 1:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Speaker 2:

Amen.