

the WELL

DEEP TRUTHS
LASTING
TRANSFORMATION



Devotional Cover Page

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“With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

I heard John Maxwell say, *“The greatest day in a man’s life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man’s life is the day he finds out why.”* You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a “follower of Christ.” For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple “follow Me,” Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

Drawing water from - The Well

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

Exercising my Faith this month

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
 - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.
- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
 - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
 - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
 - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
 - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
 - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.
- **Weekly Prayer notes**
 - Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and evaluating what we hear based upon the Word of God. It is also encouraging to look back and see how God has been moving in the areas of life we have been praying about. We encourage you to bring this with you to your prayer time and prayer meetings. Regularly visit and revisit your prayer notes sections and write down what God is doing in and through prayer in your life. *(example, see page 7)*
- **Sermon Notes**
 - Often in services there are many great things said that I want to remember. I have discovered what science has already proven to be correct - if I listen and write down thoughts my retention doubles. Included are pages for sermon notes available to be used for each Wednesday and Sunday of the month. *(Example see page 8)*

In addition, we encourage you to join one of our Growth Groups. Inside these groups of up to 5, people will connect and share insights we are learning and growing in. I highly encourage you to get connected and join one of these groups.

(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?

1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.

2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?

Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave

with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus.

Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread'

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Part of my daily prayer: *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."

Weekly Prayer Notes (Example)

Week: _____

Specific things I am praying about for my family. - <i>Daily for God's protection over my wife and children - (Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54:17)</i> - <i>Daily to hear and know God's voice, to be led by His Spirit in all that I say and do. (John 10 and Romans 8)</i> - <i>To walk in His supernatural provision and wisdom, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Philippians 4, Ephesians 1 and 3).</i>	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church. - <i>That God would grant wisdom, protection and provision to our leaders.</i> - <i>Every week, I ask for people to come know and follow Christ, to encounter God's presence and to experience His goodness in every service.</i> - <i>That God would bring every person He has called to be a part of The Father's House here.</i> - <i>That God would heal and deliver those who are in need.</i> - <i>_____, the person who was in my row that told me of his desire to see his son come back to the Lord, I am praying for his son by name all week, that God would send someone across His path to lead Him back to Jesus.</i>
Things I sensed from the Holy Spirit while I was praying this week: - <i>When I asked God if there was anything He wanted to say to me today, I heard Him simply say - "You are my son, and I love you."</i> - <i>I was talking to the Lord, and felt like He reminded me this morning of the story in the gospels when He came walking on the water, and said to Peter, "come out here with me." I felt like He was letting me know, sometimes when He leads it will be in areas I have never gone before, and didn't know I could - such as walking on water.</i>	People I am praying for their salvation. - <i>Benjamin</i> - <i>Paul</i> - <i>Keith</i> - <i>Joel</i> - <i>Jordan</i>

Series (if applicable):

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further
Genesis 17:21	- God has more in store for me than I have yet discovered - If Abraham laughed when he first heard the promise of God, and could still find God's favor and believe, then I realize I'm not alone, when sometimes I find it almost "too good to be true."	
2 Peter 1:5 - 11	- If I "add" these 7 areas to my faith in God - there is unstoppable fruit that will come in my life. - I can lead someone to Jesus - I can bear the fruit of the Spirit - I can discover and develop the call of God on my life - I can be fully assured of my salvation - I can live without stumbling	- What is Virtue? - What is knowledge referring to? - I think I understand self-control - Are perseverance and patience the same word here? - What is meant here by Godliness - What's the difference between brotherly love and love in 2 Peter 1:7

Versions of the Bible

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)
New International Version (NIV)
The Passion Translation (TPT)
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

King James Version (KJV)
The Message Translation (MSG)
The New Living Translation (NLT)

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

(NKJV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(AMP) - ¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

(YLT) - ¹⁶ for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-

(MSG) - ¹⁶ This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

Bible Reading Plan for August

	3 year (2)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Esther 1	Proverbs 19-21	2 Chron. 6:37 - 22:6	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Esther 2	Proverbs 22-23	2 Chron. 22:7 - 34-26	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Esther 3	Proverbs 24-26	2 Chron. 34:27 - Ezra	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Esther 4	Proverbs 27-29	Nehemiah 1 - 12:36	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Esther 5	Proverbs 30-31	Neh. 12:37 - Job 6:15	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Esther 6	Job 1-4	Job 6:16 - 23:17	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Esther 7	Job 5-7	Job 24:1 - 40:18	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Esther 8	Job 8-10	Job 40:19 - Psalm 22	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Esther 9-10	Job 11-13	Psalm 23 - 43	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Eccles. 1	Job 14-16	Psalm 44 - 68	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Eccles. 2	Job 17-20	Psalm 69 - 87	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Eccles. 3	Job 21-23	Psalm 88 - 107	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Eccles. 4	Job 24-28	Psalm 108-119	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Eccles. 5	Job 29-31	Psalm 120 -140	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Eccles. 6	Job 32-34	Psalm 141 - Prov. 5	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Eccles. 7	Job 35-38	Proverbs 6 - 19	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Eccles. 8	Job 39-42	Proverbs 20 - 31	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	Eccles. 9	Song of Solomon	Ecc. & Song of S.	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	Eccles. 10	Ruth	Isaiah 1 - 12	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	Eccles. 11	Lam. 1-2	Isaiah 13 - 28	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	Eccles. 12	Lam. 3-5	Isaiah 29 - 41	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	I Tim. 1	Eccles. 1-3	Isaiah 42 - 51	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	I Tim. 2	Essles. 4-6	Isaiah 52 - 66	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	I Tim. 3	Eccles. 7-9	Jeremiah 1 - 9	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	I Tim. 4	Eccles. 10-12	Jeremiah 10 - 22	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	I Tim. 5	Esther 1-5	Jeremiah 23 - 32	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	I Tim. 6	Esther 6-10	Jeremiah 33 - 46	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	2 Tim. 1	Daniel 1-2	Jer.47 - Lam 1	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	2 Tim. 2	Daniel 3-4	Lam 2 - Ez. I-10	John 13-15; I John 1-5
30	2 Tim. 3	Daniel 5-6	Ezekiel 11 - 22	John 16-18; Books of 2nd & 3rd John
31	2 Tim. 4	Daniel 7-8	Ezekiel 23-34	John 19-21 & Book of Jude

Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."

Week One

Week One Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

August 1

Wisdom, Knowledge and holding your tongue

Today's Bible Reading - Proverbs 19-21

Proverbs 19:21, There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.

The book of Proverbs is so rich in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. Each chapter has a way of making your day. There is a chapter for each day of the month, and I would suggest that you make it a part of your daily reading. If you start out each day with a dose of the wisdom of Solomon, you will have a blessed day every time. It will amaze you how the words that you read in the morning will become applicable to what the day has in store for you.

Wisdom: King Solomon was noted for being the wisest man alive at the time. It is no wonder that he included verses referring to wisdom in each of the chapters. In chapter 19:8, he states that a man who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He also references the fact that understanding will bring nothing but good. In Verse 20, he gives advice to the man who will listen to counsel and receive instruction, so that he will be wise in his "latter days". In other words, when he gets old.

Knowledge: King Solomon stresses throughout the proverbs to seek wisdom and knowledge. One of Pastor Bill Sanders' favorite scriptures is Proverbs 20:1. He regularly used it as a means of convincing people to stay away from alcohol. One of my favorite proverbs is 20:29 (because of my white hair). By reading the book of proverbs every month, you will gain a wealth of knowledge, and an ample supply of wisdom

Holding your tongue: Solomon warns us to do several things in these chapters. More than once, he tells us to watch our mouths. Chapter 19:1 tells us to be slow to speak. The apostle James also warns us to be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. Again, Chapter 21:23 tells us If you will guard your mouth and tongue, you will keep your soul from trouble. Another wise man said, (I'm not sure who it was), "Let those around you think you are a fool, but do not open your mouth and confirm their suspicions."

There are so many tidbits in these chapters. In Proverbs 21:2 – *Everyone thinks his way is right, but God looks at the heart.* 21:3 – *To obey is better than sacrifice* (1 Samuel 15:22). 20:19 – Don't associate with gossips. 20:22 – Leave revenge up to the Lord. 19:5, 19:9 – Liars will be found out and punished. 19:11 – Be slow to anger, and quick to overlook someone else's wrong against you. 19:17 – Keep a watch for the opportunity to minister to the poor, God will repay you.

Putting the Word to Work

As you read through Proverbs, always keep in mind how each of these little snippets applies to you personally. Often, they will warn you about areas you need to be aware of in order not to fall into a trap.

August 2

The Maker of Us All

Today's Bible Reading - Proverbs 22-23

Proverbs 22:2 - Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. (NIV)

In today's world, everyone is naturally ranked. We admire success. We pity poverty. We often assign value based on what people have and what they do not have. Social media has only intensified this tendency. We watch as people post their lives, and then we assign value. We give them likes, hearts, and thumbs up. Or we offer our sympathy, our pity, or maybe even our prayers. Without realizing it, we often determine a person's worth by what they display or possess.

But what does the Word say about the "haves" versus the "have-nots," the rich versus the poor? Proverbs tells us, "*The Lord is the Maker of them all.*" It doesn't say the rich are more blessed or that the poor are more spiritual; it doesn't compare them at all. It states one foundational truth: God created them both. Before anyone was rich or poor, they were first created in the image of God.

This immediately levels the ground: the wealthy, the single mom, the homeless, the missionary, the CEO, and the blue-collar worker. Each one bears God's image. In Genesis 1:27, the Word says, "*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them...*"

I recently served on a mission trip, and as we were preparing for the week ahead, one of our team members reminded us that we were not there to help people because they were somehow less than us, nor were we there to be the heroes. We were there to serve alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. What surprised me most was that ministry wasn't one-sided. We served them, but they also served us. We all learned from each other and worked together to accomplish the work of Christ. There were no titles of rich or poor. The resources we brought were certainly helpful, but they were not the most valuable thing we offered. What mattered most was that we all share the same Maker, the Almighty God, and He loves us all the same.

We all bring something to the table, and when we work together, beautiful things happen.

Putting the Word to Work

I challenge you today to never measure someone's worth by their possessions, education, influence, or circumstances. Pray and ask the Lord to give you eyes to see every person as someone created by and deeply loved by Him. Ask Him to help you serve others with humility, remembering that in Christ we stand on equal ground before the cross.

August 3

The Lazy Man

Daily Bible Reading - Proverbs 24 - 26

"The lazy man says,A fierce lion is in the streets!....The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth." Psalms 26:13,15

Our 15 year old son had his first job as a dishwasher in a local restaurant and we began receiving complaints from the owner about his work ethics. She was actually calling him "lazy." I asked her to be specific and she said, "When he finishes his obvious chores he doesn't look for anything further to do. I hate to fire him because he is a clean kid."

After reading him these specific verses in Proverbs 26 this mother went to prayer. "Holy Spirit, help! Please show me how to help him in this situation; he cannot fail at his very first job!"

He showed me a picture of his brain in sections, and He said, "You've trained him in this section called obedience (which we had), but you haven't trained him in the section where he learns to see for himself what needs to be done." So I called him in, showed him the picture of his brain as I had seen it, and lifted the responsibility of his failure off of himself and on to me. He was not lazy at all, only untrained.

That training began the next weekend. Often, on Saturdays, we would play a game with the chores, putting on slips of paper individual jobs that needed doing, and he and his sister would draw. One slip of paper might say, "Take a break, have a cookie." This particular Saturday I gave the blank slips of paper to them saying, "You look around and name the chores that you see need to be done and then make up your own game." We did that for a few Saturdays. He kept that job and was never again labeled "lazy."

Putting the Word to Work

Is there any area in your own life where you would admit to laziness? We know we should exercise, our body being the "temple of the Holy Spirit"; we should take a walk, but are we saying, "I can't, there's a lion in the streets!"

The lazy man, verse 15, is too tired to feed himself. "Holy Spirit, please forgive us for the days we have neglected to eat spiritual food.. We are asking You to give us a voracious appetite for Your Living Word!" Amen and Amen!

August 4

Take care to be taken care of

Today's Bible Reading – Proverbs 27-29

Proverbs 27:23-24 ²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds; ²⁴ For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations.

God is meticulous. God is into small things as well as monstrous things. He cares about details. He knows for every action there is going to be a reaction. He looks so far ahead and knows all the crooks and bends before we ever conceive it. In His word He gives perfect and detailed instructions on how to stay in step with Him.

Proverbs 27:23 says, *“Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds.”* If I was a farmer, I would say He is addressing me; if I was a parent, I would say this applies to me; if I was a doctor, He is talking about me; or a preacher, a teacher, etc. How does that work?

The word goes in so many directions and is applicable to all circumstances because it is core/basic truth. Be diligent (showing care—a consciousness in one's work or duties) to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds. God is saying to us, *“Be aware of who I have made you to be; be aware of what I have given you; and be aware of the things I have entrusted you with, and what I want you to take care of.”*

The ‘payoff’ for us is that our souls flourish and peace beyond understanding happens. Many times, we as humans look to the world for identity and as a result confusion sets in. Or we look to what our gifts are as our identity. It is Christ and Christ alone who identifies us. As a result of His identity in me, I have been gifted from Him, i.e. my abilities to preach, teach, parent, doctor, etc. Once you get a hold of that concept, everything falls into place and as you read His word. You get a picture of a divine order.

I recently went into my Dr. for a check-up. He has always been very professional in his treatment of me. Me being me, I've talked about God and how God has sustained me through the years. He being him, never cracked in his “Doctor” demeanor. But this last time, a situation arose concerning a family matter and he overheard the conversation. As I was leaving, he asked if we could pray about it. All of a sudden, a man of God was revealed. He stepped into the identity God gave him first, and the gift of healing became second. God's divine order was being birthed in him.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Do you know who you are in God?
2. Persevere until you know; write down your thoughts and desires, and what God reveals.
3. Check them against the word of God. Are they aligning with God's Order?

August 5

How is Your Attitude?

Today's Bible Reading - Proverbs 30-31

Proverbs 31:10 - "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."

Growing up in a royal lineage required certain experiences and education that people outside may not have needed. Conversely one growing up in the home of a blacksmith had educational and training experiences that a future king may never need. Reading through Proverbs 31, we hear from a king who is recounting the wise lessons he was taught from his mother, including what to look for in a future wife.

Verse 10 begins this section with a question, *"who can find a virtuous wife..."* I remember hearing a preacher read that statement and then declaring anyone can find "woman," but it is a blessing to find a "wife." There is more to being a good wife than to just be born a woman. Equally true, being born a man does not mean you will make a good husband.

What are some of the qualities that a woman should cultivate and that a man should be looking for in a future wife? Trustworthiness. Doer of good and not evil. Industrious, thoughtful and well-planned. Joyful to be around, and full of wisdom. Conscious of and working to ensure the needs of the home are provided. Self-awareness and confidence in who God made her to be. Generous, strong and honorable. Well thought of by those who know her best. A woman who fears the Lord above all else.

Well, this is not an exhaustive list, but notice that these are not necessarily traits a person is born with. But by intentionality one can grow and develop in them, because this is less about a specific gift set and more about a choice. You see, each of these areas are rooted in the attitude. A wise person once said, "Your attitude determines your altitude." Sure some may have a more natural inclination than another, but all of these are simply attitudinal attributes that must be identified and cultivated by a decision and embracing the right kind of attitude.

Putting the Word to Work

How is your attitude?

August 6

Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?

Today's Bible Reading - Job 1 - 4

Job 1:20-22, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, 'Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

Few people appreciate the book of Job, as much as I do. Due to my testimony, many now know that in 2012 I was given a year to live without a heart transplant. Still, many are not aware that I also had boils on my skin, caused from living in a home that was poisoning me from the inside out. Unbeknownst to me, I had the deadly infection sepsis coursing through every organ in my body, causing my heart to swell.

Returning home with a deadly diagnosis, I began asking the Lord what I could possibly do. Trying to find anyone to relate to in the Bible, I heard of this man named Job who also had boils, and many trials. I thought I would read about him and find out how he survived, as an inspiration to me and what I was going through.

The truth hit me fairly quickly, beginning in Job 1:6-12. As I read this, I discovered 2 important things. Number 1: Satan has to have God's permission to hurt His servants; and number 2: Satan can only hurt us as much as God will allow (Job 1:12) as all of His servants have a "*hedge*" (Job 1:10) about us. The Strong's Concordance (H7753) defines the word hedge as a formation that we are shut into that protects us.

Acknowledgement of God's sovereignty is exactly what I needed during this difficult time. Encouraged, I went forth with the goal of strengthening my hedge, by drawing near to Him through prayer and His word. I began shouting His word aloud all around my house. I felt incredibly invigorated by proclaiming all of the promises that He gives to those who love Him.

Knowing that Satan's power is subject to God's authority, also uplifted me. Since I know the One I serve is a loving God, I would make my appeal to Him directly. That was done through His word. One example of what I read is Psalm 49:15: "*But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive me. Selah.*"

Oh, how He did! I was healed and never received the heart transplant, and although I died in the hospital, our God resurrected me. So today, do not forget the supremacy of the Lord, for: "*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!*" (Psalm 145:3)

Putting the Word to Work

Completely give God all of your problems

Read His word aloud

August 7

Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Today's Bible Reading – Job 5-7

Job 5:17-18 "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore, do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. ¹⁸ For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole."

It is generally believed that the Book of Job is the first and oldest book in the Bible, aligning with the Book of Genesis. It is a book that reveals the God of creation in all His power, and more.

In our study today, after assuming in chapter 4 that Job's sin brought on his disaster, Job's friend, Eliphaz, speaks God's chastening message to Job in chapter 5 saying, *"Call out now; Is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones will you turn?"* Then, in 5:8-9, Eliphaz tells Job, *"But as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause—⁹ Who does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number."*

In chapter 6, Job justifies his complaints and rejects comfort for his tragic condition. He does not understand the reason for his dire circumstances. In verse 24, Job cries out, *"Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred."* We, also, rarely understand the 'why' in the midst of a trial.

In chapter 7, Job rails at God for not delivering him from himself. Then, He challenges God: *"²¹ Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, and You will seek me diligently, but I will no longer be."*

Don't give up the story here! Over the coming days, continue in the Book of Job. God always has the last word and the answer to every question. Faithfulness and perseverance are required to be victorious. Was Job victorious?

Varying degrees of distress and trauma will come to each of us. Solutions may seem impossible, but at times of testing we go *"to the Rock that is higher than I."* (Psalm 61:1-3) We must stand on God's Word... even when we can't see what God is doing... or preparing. Trust Him, especially if you see nothing. Everything needed to accomplish His plan is in His purpose and in His timing. In the meantime, while He is working, you are in His strong, loving hands.

Putting the Word to Work

Remember that God uses all situations, all people, and all events to accomplish His good purpose.

Keep seeking God's will to build a store of faith and strength. He has the Power we need.

Justification and self-pity are stumbling blocks. Instead, seek the God of our Salvation.

Week One Sermon Notes

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two

Week Two Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	People I am praying for their salvation.

August 8

An Eternal Advocate

Today's Bible Reading: Job 8 - 10

Job 9:1-3, "Then Job answered and said, "Yes, I know it is true. But how can a mortal man be right before God? "If one should want to contend or dispute with Him, He could not answer Him once in a thousand times."

How can a mortal man contend with God? How can a person born into sin ever be made right with the one who created him? Many scholars believe that the story of Job took place long before God called Abraham and made His covenant with him. That would explain a lot.

That would mean there is no covenant and no agreement or intermediary between God and man. Job admits that man cannot contend with God and cannot defend himself or dispute the charges against him. These first few verses confirm that we desperately need an advocate or an intermediary: Someone to plead our case before the throne of God, someone to take up our defense.

In the first few chapters of the book, Job has lost everything: his wealth, his flocks, and his family. Yet he still believed and trusted in God. Even when his friends were convinced that Job had offended God in some way and it looks like God is punishing him.

Even Job's own wife has told him to "*curse God and die.*" We know that in the end God restores everything to Job. In fact, he ends up even better than when his troubles started. Not much has changed over time. Satan still wants to harass and torment God's children.

The difference is that now we have an advocate and intermediary to plead our case and deflect our due punishment (punishment that Job didn't deserve).

Advocate: one who defends or maintains a cause or proposal; one who pleads the cause of another, specifically, one who pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court

Jesus is our advocate, our intermediary. Through His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood we are not only redeemed, but we have the right to go boldly before the throne to seek mercy.

Hebrews 4:16, "*Therefore let us [with privilege] approach the throne of grace [that is, the throne of God's gracious favor] with confidence and without fear, so that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find [His amazing] grace to help in time of need [an appropriate blessing, coming just at the right moment].*"

Man became separated from God in the Garden of Eden. We need to be returned to the place we had in the garden. That return started with a covenant where, if broken, blood was required. Then the law came, and that, too, required sacrifice and blood.

Christ shed His blood as the sacrifice for us all. That blood redeemed us.

(Redeemed: to buy back. Repurchase: to get or win back, to free from what distresses or harms, such as to free from captivity by payment of ransom, to extricate from, or help to overcome something detrimental. Release from blame or debt. Clear, to free from the consequences of sin.)

In Him is the redemption from sin. All that is required from us is to accept the grace and freedom we have in Him. Step boldly before that throne and receive our redemption.

Putting the word to work

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Ask forgiveness for your sins.
3. Accept redemption.

August 9
Job 11-13
Yet Will I Trust Him

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

Job was a blameless and upright man who Satan persecuted in an attempt to turn his heart away from God.

Oh Judge, Great and Mighty
 Oh Judge Great and Mighty in the land
 Who can judge the thoughts and intents of man?
 Who can worry about others? Who can stone them with ease?

Oh Judge, Mighty in the land
 Swift is Thy judgement, doomed is the man.
 Who holds the weights and balances in His hand?
 Is it us, are we usurping God's plan?

Genesis 18:25b *"...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* Job's friends gave him an earful. Attempting to impart wisdom, they distorted the truth. Job maintained his integrity. He purposely submitted to what God had for him. He heard the arguments against him yet he remained steadfast, convinced the Judge of all the earth would do right. Job was persuaded because the old account was settled long ago. He had tasted and saw that the Lord is good. That is why he could say, *"have Thine own way, Lord."* The Lord was trustworthy. His confidence was high. He did not know that the trying of his faith would leave him undone and the hardship he would have to endure would mean he would have to persevere. He did know that God can do all things and that no thought or purpose of God's could be restrained or thwarted. Job said, "I will trust You".

Deuteronomy 29:29, *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."* I really love this verse as it is a promise for the whole family. Do you have confidence in your Lord? Are you doing what He is saying? Are you looking unto Him? What is your daily bread? Are you running around in your own understanding?

Job purposefully submits to what God has for him. Our submission is to the will of God. Keep your eyes fixed upon Him.

Putting the Word to Work

Are you persuaded that nothing can separate you from the Love of God? Romans 8:38-39

August 10
Hope
Job 14-16

Job 14:7 "For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease. 8 Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground, 9 Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant.

It is true here that Job is communicating his despair in the situation he is facing. Trees can be cut down and grow again, but not so for man, he said in the next verse. But I ask the question; Was Job right? Remember, much of the book of Job is that Job is communicating his story, his journey, his perspective. Having the benefit of seeing his experience from the other side of it as being finished, and the completion of the remainder of the Scripture, we have the ability to look at a man in the midst of a mighty conflict. And we see areas where he expresses the pain in the moment of battles, but not necessarily in alignment with the whole of the Word.

Proverbs tells us that if a righteous man falls, seven times He gets back up again. We know from the gospels that we who have put our trust in Jesus will have everlasting life. By the end of the book of Job, here is what you will see: Job's experience is much more like the tree here than he could see in the middle of the fight. While he was "cut down" and nearly left for dead, God would regrow Job to double the fruitfulness of where he started.

Putting the Word to Work

Remember that regardless of your present experience, there is a God in heaven. If there is breath in your lungs, there is hope for God to move. The day that breath ceases to fill your lungs, means your everlasting life in heaven is just beginning.

August 11

With Friends like these...

Today's Bible Reading - Job 17-20

Job 19:1-3 1 Then Job answered and said: 2 "How long will you torment my soul, And break me in pieces with words? 3 These ten times you have reproached me; You are not ashamed that you have wronged me.

I don't know that there is a one-size-fits all answer to the problems we see Job walking through, or similar, though much less intense situations that many in this life experience. But one of the greatest challenges we see in the book of Job is not just the harsh and heartbreaking experiences, loss of family, loss of home and property and wealth, etc., but the challenge of having "friends" come and begin to probe and prod, trying to figure out what secret sins or pride Job is "hiding" that 'must be' the reason behind his recent tragic situations.

At some point in life, it seems everyone faces false accusations. How do we handle it when the kiss of a friend was actually an act of betrayal (See *Judas' story*). Job here describes it as "*soul torment*." Moments of emotional trauma tend to shoot adrenaline and other hormones to extreme levels. While I am not an expert in this field, my understanding is that in moments when these hormones are running high, these experiences seem to have a deeper, longer lasting impact as moments become more than memories, by monuments in our soul. This is why I believe it is easier to "help" other people walk through situations than it is to face our own giants.

Three thoughts on how to manage intense conflicting moments. First, make up your mind that truth matters. We need to seek and know the truth regardless of how painful it is to come face-to-face with it. Love of truth guards our hearts from deception. Secondly, the relationship is always more important than winning an argument. People matter. Friendships matter. When we have to confront, it should always be done from a spirit of gentleness and love, with a heart to understand, not to condemn and fault-find. We have never been called into the ministry assignment of "Sheriff sin-sniffer." We do have a responsibility to speak the truth in love. Thirdly, remember the power of grace in every confrontation and conflict. We are not the sum total of our mistakes and successes. The grace of God has the capacity to change even the hardest soul and situation.

Putting the Word to Work

How have you experienced these three steps working in your own life when difficult conversations are happening or needed? Or maybe the question might be, if you had walked through difficult conflict or conversations with these three keys in place, how do you see it might have affected your experience?

What might you add as a 4th or 5th step?

August 12
Handling the opposition
Today's Bible Reading Job 21-23

Job 21:5-7, Look at me and be astonished; Put your hand over your mouth. ⁶ Even when I remember I am terrified, and trembling takes hold of my flesh. ⁷ Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power?

What do you do when those around you seem to have a plausible explanation for what you are going through? In this passage of scripture we have Job, who has lost everything, confronted by his so-called friends. Job speaks to the bigger picture. He tries to answer the question, "Why do the unrighteous seem to prosper, when the righteous seem to have all of the problems?" The focus moves from Job personally to the question of the suffering of the godly while the ungodly seem to prosper.

In answer to his question, Eliphaz the Temanite seems to call Job to repentance. Actually, he is accusing Job of specific sins, and his comfort has turned to condemnation. How do you handle the accusations of those who are your friends and close acquaintances? These are the ones who should be offering comfort and compassion to you, but instead appear to be the ones condemning you. How should a Christian respond to someone like this?

Job comes back in chapter 23 and ignores the accusations of his friends. He repeats his longing for God and affirms God's righteousness. In verses 8-10 Job tells us that he can not find God, but God knows where Job is, and He has tested him. He will come forth as Gold.

Sometimes, when we are in the midst of some extreme trial or tribulation, God seems to be far off. However, God is right there with you. Hebrews 13:5, "...For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" He may appear to be far off, but He isn't. He is within your grasp whenever you seek Him with your whole heart. God may be silent for a time, but He never leaves you. James 1:2 – "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." I do not know if I would be able to count it all joy if I were to suffer the things that Job suffered, but it was a great honor for God to have trusted Job to the extent that He could use Him to prove a point to satan.

Job stuck to his love for and worship of God. By doing so, he obtained a blessing that increased his position in life to a greater status than before the tragedy occurred. I sincerely hope that you and I will be able to do the same if such tragedy befalls us. When we are faced with adversity, especially when our closest friends seem to be full of accusations, what should we do? The answer may seem to be rather simplistic: Praise and Worship the Lord. You don't have to feel like it, and you may feel just the opposite, but praise Him anyway. It will turn your world around.

Putting the Word to Work

Whenever you face a trial or temptation, make praise and worship your first stop. No matter how you feel, sing the praises of your Lord and Savior.

August 13

The Search For Wisdom

Today's Bible Reading - Job 24-28

Job 28:28, "And he said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord -that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." (NIV)

Today we live in an age where information has never been more accessible. With just a few taps on a screen we can access information we need almost instantly. Want to start a house project? Do-it-yourself videos on YouTube. Can't remember where you saw that actor before? Google. Looking for a certain scripture and don't remember the specific location? Bible App. Yet, despite having more knowledge than any previous generation, wisdom still seems like it is just out of reach. However, this is not a new problem. Humanity has been searching for wisdom for centuries.

In Job 28, Job describes mankind's remarkable ability to uncover precious treasures hidden deep within the earth. Through skill and determination, people mined for gold, silver, and other costly stones. Yet after describing all these amazing achievements, Job asks a surprising question: *"Where can wisdom be found?"* (v.12). He repeats the question again in verse 20, emphasizing that although humanity can discover great treasures, wisdom cannot be found through human effort alone.

Job's point isn't that wisdom doesn't exist. He is showing us that wisdom cannot be bought, it cannot be mined like gold, and it cannot be discovered through intelligence. Verse 28 finally provides the answer to our question. *"The fear of the Lord -that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."* Wisdom belongs to God alone, and He alone is the source. The fear of the Lord is not a terrified fear that causes us to run from God. It is a deep understanding of who God is, which leads us to trust, honor, and obey Him. That is where true wisdom begins: when we recognize that God alone sees what we cannot, and knows what we do not.

Job reminds us that while we are capable of uncovering remarkable treasures, wisdom is not one of them. It cannot be mined from the earth or discovered through human knowledge alone. It is found in a life that fears the Lord. As we trust Him, honor His Word, and walk in obedience, we receive the wisdom that only He can give.

Putting the Word to Work

Where have you been searching for wisdom lately? Today spend intentional time in God's Word and seek Him first in every decision you face.

Ask the Lord, not only for information or answers, but for the wisdom to honor Him in all that you do.

August 14

Blurry in the Middle

Today's Bible Reading - Job 29-31

Job 29:2,4,5,6 - "Oh that I were as in months past....when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; when the Almighty was yet with me....when my steps were bathed with cream (butter), and the Rock poured out rivers of oil for me!"

We have to understand that these 3 chapters are only a small chunk out of Job's life. We need the whole story of Job to get the full picture. Job remembers better days when he readily heard God's counsel and enjoyed His presence; he remembers the anointing he walked in due to that Presence.

He remembers the respect from young and old, righteousness clothed him, he cared for the poor and broken. He missed the glory he walked in - (kabowd) honor, reputation, prestige and high social standing. Men listened to him and he was a respected leader.

Now that respect is gone, he is mistreated, he fears those who were once under his leadership, he has even been spit upon; His mind is now centered on his loss and his affliction. He cannot think beyond his pain, He accuses God of casting him "into the mire," of not answering him and even of cruelty.

Job's heart is in a turmoil, he cannot rest and he sees only days of affliction ahead. He has trouble seeing anything good in his life, all his songs are of sadness. Job reminds God of his purity toward women and his fear of God; he declares that wealth had never been his goal. He continually searches his heart for sin, so longing for the Almighty to answer him so that he can understand the reason or purpose of his suffering.

What he doesn't know, at that point in his journey, is that it is not God who has slain him, but Satan, that fallen angel, the enemy of his soul. Keep reading this book of Job until you get the full picture of God's plans and purposes for this son He loves so much.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Are we somehow holding God responsible for all that goes wrong in our lives? May it's not him....
2. This is not Job's situation, but what if we have walked in disobedience for a long while, would not God step back and remove his protective hand so Satan could remind us of our daily need for a Savior? Just saying....
3. "I am convinced that any suffering we endure is less than nothing compared to the magnitude of glory that is about to be unveiled within us. Romans 8:18 TPT

Week Two Sermon Notes

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three

Week Three Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	People I am praying for their salvation.

August 15

God our Judge

Today's Bible Reading – Job 32-34

Job 32:2-3 “Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God. ³ Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.”

Mistake #1: Job was interpreting his circumstances based on his incorrect understanding of who God is.

Mistake #2: He was listening to the opinions of those who were also mistaken in their understanding.

God is who He says He is. Job wasn't sinning, he was mistaken. There was no moral failure, just a misunderstanding; a misunderstanding resulting in his “friends” condemning him. God had to correct this by dialoguing with them; And dialogue He did!

Elihu had the mind of God, and thus was brought to anger as he listened to Job trying to justify why he was going through the fire. The only way Job could be justified is through God and God alone. He could not justify himself, only God can do it. Instead of justifying and glorifying God, Job's mind was set on justifying himself.

To God be the glory in all things. I Peter 4:11, *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

When you read about Elihu and his interaction with Job and his three friends, you must give consideration to just who Elihu was and where he came from. The introduction explains his lineage, so that gives us a point to identify with him as being a real person. But as you continue reading to the end of the book, he disappears. He was for a “season.” At the right time, his wisdom and his voice needed to be heard by Job and “friends.”

My brother was always bringing people to our home to sit with my mother so she could minister to them. One day he picked up a hitchhiker and brought him home to sit in “the chair.” It turned from a couple of hours to three months; a season. What our entire family received as a blessing from this young man we could only tell with great awe and wonder. I will never forget the day he left. He told us it was time that he must leave. We were all crying. You see, he was one of the first to ever survive open heart surgery. Up until that time, they had never done radical surgery such as was performed on him. He was only nineteen. We never heard from him again. He, too, disappeared.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Has God sent you to be a season in someone's life?

2. Maybe someone has come to bless you for a season. Meditate on this and thank God for it.

August 16

God reveals His omnipotence to Job

Today's Bible Reading – Job 35-38

Job 37:22 "He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty. ²³ As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. ²⁴ Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

Chapter after chapter through the Book of Job, we see Job's three friends attempting to help him see the error of his ways. They say that he must have sinned for all this calamity to come upon him, as they continue to extol the Power and Glory of God. In chapter 6:24, Job defended himself, then asked God, *"Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred."*

After many chapters of Job's friends proclaiming God's Goodness and Sovereignty, chapter 38 begins four chapters where God, in His omnipotence, challenges Job to acknowledge the source of all creation. Job 38:1-4 *"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: ² 'Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. ⁴ 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.' And, ¹⁸ 'Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.'"*

Compare Genesis 1:1 through 2:7 with Job, chapters 38-41 that describe in detail even the small things. It is believed that Genesis and Job were written in the same time period. Most people know the story of creation in Genesis 1, however, Job 38-41 provides a deeper look into that creation which is evident all around us.

Romans 1:20, *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."*

When you talk with others about God, chapters 38-41 will provide food for deep thought and conversation. Reread God's challenge to Job. Would you, or could you answer Him? When this concept is absorbed, the clarity of creation will resonate within you and inspire awe.

Tomorrow will conclude Job's story. Stay tuned; don't miss it.

Putting the Word to Work

Look all around us to deeply appreciate the wonders of creation. Our God is amazing

August 17

Do You Still Want to Argue With Lord the Lord Almighty

Today's Bible Reading - Job 39-42

Job 40:2, "Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?"

Where do I need to step back, let go, and let God be God? Why do I think I can do it better? Why do I struggle so hard to let God be God?

Who Could Complain to God Almighty

Who could complain to God Almighty?
 Who could question His love?
 Who could complain to God Almighty?
 Who in ignorance would doubt His love?
 Who would complain to God Almighty?
 The arrogant, the fool, the wounded, the blind,
 The weak and frail, the Lost in denial?
 What is it that would cause you to complain
 To God Almighty?

Why am I questioning God? Do I need to cover my mouth and stop talking? What situation would be best, if I stopped talking and let God do the talking for me?

*Job 40:4, "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand.
 5 I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say."*

Putting the Word to Work

Have you ever questioned God?

Have you ever thought your way was higher than His?

August 18

All things in their season

Today's Bible Reading - Book of The Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon 2:10-12 - 10 My beloved (God) spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. 11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; 12 the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land...

There is an enemy to our souls, that will do everything he can to stop the plan of God for you. An imperfect person, but covered by the mercy and grace of God. It's a new day for you. The enemy could not suffocate, nor sniff out the great work God has been doing inside of you.

Three ideas from this book that are great reminders for you and me. The voice of the Lord is calling unto us:

1. Rise up - it is time to rise up and move forward. Past experiences, good and bad, are not what define us, but the grace of our Lord is what is to define us.
2. Winter is past - winter is not the death of living things, but a time of dormancy, rest and regeneration. Sap has been collecting and preparing to produce strength and fruitfulness yet again. Springtime has come: it is the time of growth, of multiplication, of production.
3. It is the time of singing - It has been a long winter, but the gift is there and will produce again.

The gift of your voice is important. You have a unique voice that no one else has. It is essential we learn to lift up and declare the Word with our voice. This is a spring season, where I believe we in the body of Christ are about to experience a passion for the Word that supersedes any season you have previously experienced. A season where our hunger for the Word is not dependent on our level of desperation, but on our passion for Him.

Putting the Word to Work

Do you know how to use your voice to advance the Kingdom of God?

August 19

Dedicated and Loyal

Today's Bible Reading - Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:16-17 - "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death separates you and me."

One of the strongest word covenants recorded between two people in all of the Bible is contained in these two power-packed verses. Look at the language Ruth uses here to communicate her commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi. The kind of commitment that says, 'I am here to stay, I am with you, forever, come what may.'

Our God is a covenant making, covenant keeping God. I personally believe it was this kind of commitment that caught God's attention. You see, Ruth was a Moabite born outside of the nation of Israel, yet she joined herself to this family and this nation. Her Great Grandson David, *"a man after God's own heart,"* would become the King of Israel, ultimately becoming a part of the lineage of Jesus the Messiah. David demonstrates over and over the understanding of Covenant at a level that no one else in the Bible does, outside of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He refused to kill Saul when he had the chance multiple times, in spite of Saul's attempt to hunt him down and murder him. Why? He was a covenant man, raised in a covenant understanding home and family. He knew that God had installed Saul as King, and that God had also promised David that He would be the next king. He trusted God to work out the details, rather than forcing something to happen, because He knew and understood the value of covenant.

Ruth understood the value of this level of covenant of making a promise and it laid the groundwork for God to move in her life, and in coming generations. God also made a covenant with all who have been born again to *"never leave you nor forsake you."*

Putting the Word to Work

How does knowing that God has made an everlasting covenant with you impact the way in which you live?

August 20

The utter despair of the prophet Jeremiah

Today's Bible Reading Lamentation 1-2

Lamentations 1:1, "How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she, Who was great among the nations! The princess among the provinces has become a slave!"

This Book of the Bible was written by the prophet Jeremiah during and following the siege of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar. Judah, like Israel, had sinned against God and despite the warnings by the prophets of that day, including Jeremiah, they had not repented and were now besieged in the city. The people were starving to death, and finally, Nebuchadnezzar's army broke through the walls and took the city. Nebuchadnezzar, and an official, probably a general in the conquering army, burned the city, including the temple, and took everyone but the poorest of the people captive. This began the 70 years of exile for the Jewish people.

The first part of this poem describes the condition of Jerusalem during the siege of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah describes the sins of Judah as the sins of Jerusalem. Chapter 1:8 – *"Jerusalem has sinned gravely, therefore she has become vile."* The first eleven verses are a lament by Jeremiah. In verse 12 he changes the direction of the poem and begins to speak as if he is the city of Jerusalem. Verse 18 – *"The Lord is righteous, for I rebelled against His commandment."* He is writing this in the first person as if Jerusalem is speaking herself. Verses 20-22 are a prayer for vindication in great suffering. Jerusalem cries out for the Lord to deliver her from the afflictions that she is suffering.

Chapter 2 begins with Jeremiah once again speaking for all of Israel. He emphasizes the anger of the Lord towards Judah and Israel. He says things like *"...the Lord has swallowed up," "cut off," "was like an enemy, spurned His altar and purposed to destroy."* In Verse 13, he begins to lament over what he can do for Judah. In verse 14 he lays much of the blame on the prophets and teachers of Jerusalem. *"Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not uncovered your iniquity to bring back your captives."* The teachers of the day had not shown the people their iniquities in order to bring them to repentance.

Jeremiah calls Judah (Jerusalem) to repentance and prayer. Verse 19 – *"Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches. Pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord...."* This entire passage of scripture is a heart plea from the prophet to try and get Judah (Jerusalem) to admit their sin, repent and turn once again to the Lord. Unfortunately, they will not listen and will be condemned to 70 years of exile in Babylon. One of the interesting things about the time in the history of Israel, they did not allow the land to sit idle for the seventh year to give it a rest. The 70 years of exile corresponds to the amount of time that they had not followed the commandment of the Lord and allowed the land to rest.

Putting the Word to Work

What do we get from this passage of Scripture? Repent. We need to be quick to repent and always diligent to try and maintain our walk with the Lord.

August 21

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Today's Bible Reading - Lamentations 3-5

Lamentations 3:22 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" 25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. 26 It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

One of my favorite hymns is "Great is Thy Faithfulness," Written by Thomas Chisholm:

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

Chisholm wrote that this song, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," was inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis. He wrote, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years, which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God, and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

Inspired from this passage embedded in the book of Lamentations when Jeremiah is recounting so much of the painful experiences of his life, yet there is a never failing ability to recall the faithfulness of God. When life is hard, always remember, we serve a God who is faithful.

Putting the Word to Work

As you look back and reflect on your life, when are two or three times that seemed like very hard seasons yet you can see how God was at work?

Week Three Sermon Notes

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of the Month

Final 10 Days of the month Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.	Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.
Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.	People I am praying for their salvation.

August 22

Life's cycle.

Today's Bible Reading – Ecclesiastes 1-3

Ecclesiastes 1:9-11 "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there anything where it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after."

History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new! The only 'new' is 'you.' No one else has your DNA, your set of fingerprints, your existence. The scenarios are the same, just different characters and reactions. When God created the world with all of its glory, He said it was perfect.

When He created man, He also said we were perfect. But He knew what was coming down the road and how we would deal with one thing: He gave us what would set us apart from all other life forms: "choice." We would get to choose our earthly destiny. What do I do with the day God has given me? What do I do with the circumstances I find myself in? Can my choice have a joyous end or does my choice end in disaster? Will it be okay for me, but hurtful to others? Do I let the outcome be destructive or will it be constructive?

In Eccles. 1:11 (above) in NLT: *"We don't remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now."* This tells me something about God and His marvelous ways. He is a God of restoration and nothing would please God more than to have His children restored back to that state of perfection, so that we would be in complete and perfect communion with Him.

That only means one thing: He is an unchanging God with unchanging ways. So, it must be I who must change. I must have an eternal DNA, a heavenly DNA, just like my Father's. My perspective must rise above the earthly realm and become heavenly focused: my will must become His will; my seeing must have His eternal sight; my heartbeat must be His heart; my thoughts as His thoughts; the love that led His son to the cross must become my love. How in the world can I (worm that I am) become this perfect example of our eternal God?

John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* It all begins with the word. Know the word and you will know God. Know God and you will learn about the 'heaven-focused' you, the you that God meant you to be; the you who can affect the world; the kingdom-bound you; the you who has the heart of God operating in you, changing your life and others—one at a time!

Putting the Word to Work

1. Pray John's prayer: *"Less of me, more of Thee."*

2. Pray for the baptism of God's love in you: *"Change me, Lord. Holy Spirit, do your work in me."*

August 23

The Value of a Friend

Today's Bible Reading – Ecclesiastes 4-6

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

The word Ecclesiastes means "preacher," or "assembly speaker." From the earliest verses, the Preacher has been identified as Solomon, the third king of ancient Israel, the son of David. In the first chapter, we find these words about the author: (Ecclesiastes 1:1), "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem." And in 1:12, "*I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem...*"

Many readers avoid the book of Ecclesiastes. "It's too depressing," they say. And frankly, the book does contain many expressions of pessimism and doubt. These thoughts were apparently written by Solomon in his old age after wandering away from God. He describes the futility of life "*under the sun*"—life without God—and reminds us that it is meaningless and empty. He spoke out of his own depressing experience of selfish, sinful living.

Solomon's continuing theme is "*vanity*." He questioned the state of all men at the end of life. He felt worthlessness, pointlessness, and futility in all his accomplishments and accumulation of possessions. Contemplation should direct our thoughts away from earthly 'things' to focus on understanding our eternal value. Heaven is our goal.

The Preacher was eventually able to value people more than possessions, as evidenced by our opening scripture above. Christians, connecting with the Body of Christ, provide nurturing and opportunity for growth. There is strength in standing together with a focus on our Lord.

At the close of this book in Ecclesiastes 12:13- 14 [KJV], the Preacher concludes his sermon by pointing the way to making our personal existence one of value and meaning. He says, "¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* ¹⁴ *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*"

Putting the Word to Work

When depression comes near, we must look unto the Lord, the Source of our Salvation.

We are called to evaluate our life choices to discover where change is needed—to glorify God.

There are many activities at church gatherings. Find one that fits your skills and needs.

August 24

Finishing Well

Today's Bible Reading - Ecclesiastes 7-9

Ecclesiastes 7:12 AMP ... "Wisdom shields and preserves the life of him who has it."

Shortly after Solomon took the throne to become king over Israel he had a life-changing encounter with God Who said to him, *"Ask! What shall I give you?"* I Kings 3:5 And Solomon answered, *"...Give to Your servant an understanding heart."* That Hebrew word is shema that means "hearing, attentive, discerning, to be listening and obedient."

Solomon began well, walked with God as he ruled the Israelites, and time after time, he did listen and receive God's wisdom and understanding. Then 700 wives and 300 concubines later, many who followed foreign gods influenced Solomon, who eventually turned to their gods and used his own wisdom to rule.

In chapter 7, verse 26 AMP, he said, *"And I found that, of all sinful follies, none has been so ruinous in seducing one away from God as idolatrous women; more bitter than death is the woman whose heart is snares and nets and whose hands are bands. Whoever pleases God shall escape from her, but the sinner shall be taken by her."*

Although he did not follow it, he truly did know the path of God, for he said, *"Surely I know that it will be well with those who reverently fear God, who revere and worship Him, realizing His continual presence."*
Ecclesiastes 8:12 AMP

This is one of those instances where it pays to read the end of the book first! For toward the end of his life he said, *"Fear God, revere and worship Him, knowing that He is, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man, the full, original purpose of His creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness...and the whole duty for every man."* Ecclesiastes 12:13 AMP

We must look at the whole of his life instead of judging his failures...Did he not give us that beautiful book of Song of Songs, depicting an intimate relationship with Jesus? And what would we do without the godly wisdom in the book of Proverbs? He also led the Israelites in peace for 40 years, no small accomplishment!

Putting the Word to Work

Our goal is to finish well... What can we do, day by day, to make sure that happens?

August 25

Truth and True Wisdom

Today's Bible Reading - Ecclesiastes 10-12

Ecclesiastes 10:14 , " A fool also multiplies words."

In a day when there are so many voices and self-proclaimed experts spouting their own ideas and ideals and "wisdom," this short phrase from Ecclesiastes seems more relevant to me than ever before. How many times have I myself, when I entered into a place where I really didn't know what I was talking about, tried to "work my way through it," instead of just admitting, "I'm not exactly sure." The following is a list of several argumentation flaws that I think are important for us to recognize when people are using an abundance of words to hide their foolery.

"Ad Hominem" - when people begin to attack a person instead of their point.

"Red Herring" - introducing an irrelevant side issue to distract the audience.

"Hasty generalization" - drawing a broad conclusion from too little data.

"Slippery slope" - assuming one small step leads to an extreme outcome without proof.

"False dilemma" - presenting only two choices when more options exist.

"False cause" presuming a fake or weak cause-and-effect link between events.

"Equivocation" using a key word with two different meanings in one argument.

"Fake precision" using numbers or stats that claim a level of exactness that the data cannot support.

"Straw man" where someone changes, exaggerates or twists another person's point to make it much weaker and easier to attack.

Truth and True wisdom do not need help to defend themselves. All of these above techniques are the fool's attempt to undercut or undermine truth and true wisdom.

Putting the Word to Work

The next time you watch the news, or a political debate, see how many of these "techniques" you can identify.

August 26

Silent No More

Today's Bible Reading - Esther 1-5

Esther 4:13-14, ¹³ And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

My love for the Jewish roots of Christianity will come as no surprise for those who are regularly connected to The Father's House. I firmly believe that we as Christians are "*grafted into Israel*" (See Romans 11). We are the "*seed of Abraham*" (See Galatians 3). While the gods of this world are gods over a collective group, the God of the Bible introduced by Abraham and the Jewish nation was a God who called out individuals, not a collective. He knows you by name.

The Jewish nation gave us the Patriarchs, Moses, King David and the Psalms, and the entirety of the Bible. The Old and the vast majority of the New Testament were both written by Jews. While Dr. Luke was not necessarily a Jew, he traveled with and lived amongst the Jews—the disciples and apostles were all Jews. When Jesus, the Son of God, came into this world born of a virgin, He chose to be born into the Jewish nation. Trying to separate the Christian from the Jew would be like trying to bake an apple pie and leave out the apples. It just doesn't work.

Perhaps this is why the enemy of our souls is working so hard to push anti-semitism in the world and in our own nation today. All the way back in the Book of Esther we see evil personified in the man called Haman and a desperate attempt to eliminate the Jewish people. Throughout history we see this effort tried and failed again and again: the Spanish Inquisition, Hitler's Holocaust, Iran's terrorism, or antisemitism pushed in our own universities.

Putting the Word to Work

We cannot remain silent. I am not saying that I agree with everything the current government is doing, nor would I recommend you do so. But can we acknowledge a few things, even publicly when necessary?

- 1) All people, including the Jews, are made in the image of God and have the right to exist, to self-determination and to self-defense.
- 2) We, as Christians, owe Jewish people a debt of gratitude for out of the Jewish nation came our Savior, Jesus Christ. The "people of the book" is who God used to give us a Savior.
- 3) The God who makes and keeps covenants made an everlasting promise to the nation of Israel.
(See Genesis 12, 15 & 17).

August 27

When the People Pray, the King Can't Sleep

Today's Bible Reading - Esther 6-10

Esther 6:1, "That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to come bring the book of records of the chronicles and they were read before the king."

Esther, Mordecai and the intercessors are lifting up their voices in prayer. Desperate for God to move on behalf of their people. As long as the people are crying out to God in prayer, the king can't sleep. Oh, brothers and sisters, we need to keep praying!

Consider that Psalm 121:4 says *"Behold He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."* Whatever it is you are facing, know this: that your God is awake and at work. He hears your cries. 2 Chron. 16:9, *"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal towards Him."* God is looking to move on behalf of those who are serving Him. But also know that Ezekiel 22:30 tells us, *"I [God] looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I could find no one."*

As long as The Father's House remains, we will be a people dedicated to prayer and intercession. Why? Because we know that God is alive and moving. As long as the church is praying, the king is awake and working.

Putting the Word to Work

How would you describe your patterns of prayer?

August 28

10X

Today's Bible Reading - Daniel 1-2

Daniel 1:17-20, “¹⁷ As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” ¹⁸ Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. ²⁰ And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”

The favor of the Lord gives people an extreme advantage compared to those who do not know Him. Daniel and his three friends had made up their minds that they were going to stay loyal to God, and to live His ways. Notice that God gave them favor and the favor of the Lord made them 10 times better than all the magicians and astrologers in his realm.

I am of the opinion that the knowledge of having a relationship with the Holy Spirit will produce this same kind of favor in our lives. This is not unique to Daniel and his three friends. Think of some of the things called wisdom today by those who are obviously not following God, yet described as the “elite” of wisdom in the world. One of our Supreme Court Justices was not able to describe the difference between a man and a woman. Yet, that is hailed by the left leaning experts in our nation as one of the wisest and most discerning people in our nation.

Knowing God and following His ways will produce wisdom in your life.

Putting the Word to Work

What are two or three ways that you have experienced the favor of the Lord producing excellence?

August 29

If you don't bow, you won't burn

Today's Bible Reading - Daniel 3-4

Daniel 3:26-29, “²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”

This was a long quotation of Scripture, (but cannot be helped) from one of the most famous stories of God's deliverance. Three quick take-aways from this story.

- 1) The power of God to preserve. Not only did they not burn, but their hair was not singed, nor did they have the smell of smoke. When you walk through the fire with God, he can defend you to the point that all that is left is the story.
- 2) If you don't bow to the gods of the world you won't burn.
- 3) Courage in God in the face of the enemy produced a testimony in their enemy king, Nebuchadnezzar when he decreed throughout his empire, *“There is no god that can deliver like their God.”*

Putting the Word to Work

Describe a time when God didn't necessarily remove you from the fire, but fully preserved you in the fire?

August 30

Dealing with Eternity

Today's Bible Reading - Daniel 5 & 6

Daniel 5:29-31 "Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. That very night, Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old."

There is a day coming when all will stand before the Lord. It matters not what one's earthly level of "success" and "treasure" is. In this chapter, king Belshazzar was a few hours away from meeting God, and rather than have humility and crying out in repentance to seek the mercies of God, he continued in pride and did not change anything He was doing.

While I wish no one this level of confrontation, I sometimes wonder what would happen in the life of a person if he knew that he had twenty-four hours left in this life on earth. Would it be terrifying? Exciting? Anticipation? Dread? Would a person be repentant? Defiant? Arrogant?

One day after a Sunday service, I will never forget a conversation I had with a man who was very troubled. He was former military and suffered from PTSD due to some front-line combat actions he had been involved in. For several years the war replayed over and over in his mind and he had tried to quiet those memories with alcohol and various hobbies.

Still in obvious excellent condition, he began attending the church that we were pastoring at the time. He looked me in the eye, pleading with me to come immediately to his house; he needed me to come help him there. He followed that with a statement not worth repeating here, but that was either a threat on my life or a desperate plea for help. Turns out it was a plea for help, but it took five more minutes of talking with him there to clarify that.

Those were five intense minutes for me, that I am now grateful to have experienced. Standing there with the knowledge that my life may be in jeopardy and sensing the love and faithfulness of God, Eternal things became very important and many temporal things not so much.

Working with the Word

The Bible says that we are to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

If the idea of eternity is scary, what would it take to change that?

August 31

Coming With The Clouds

Today's Bible Reading - Daniel 7-8

Daniel 7:13, "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed."

Acts 1:9, "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Daniel is often put alongside the Book of Revelation as an Old Testament parallel due to the number of eschatological (study of the time of the end) visions described in this book of the Bible. In the scriptures above, Daniel describes the second coming of the Lord echoed in the experience of the disciples. Then, in the first chapter of the Book of Acts, when Jesus ascended from the Mt. of Olives, the angels told them, He's coming back in the same manner.

Folks, Jesus is coming again. There is a day coming, when the whole world will hear the heavenly trumpet sound and Jesus will descend from heaven and establish an everlasting dominion here on the earth. He will come and bring judgement, purge the earth of sin and establish peace. Are you ready for His return? Only one step is needed to be ready: submit to His Lordship now. Believe, as the Bible says, that Jesus died for you, was buried and rose again, and now is Lord of all. Commit your life to serve Him as your Lord and you will be made a brand new creation in Christ Jesus by His grace.

Working with the Word

What are three practical ways you demonstrate your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Week Four Sermon Notes

Final 10 Days of March Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Final 10 Days of March Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

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Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

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For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website:

thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
	5:30 pm - Family dinner at 5:30
	6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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