

Devotions – June 13-19, 2021
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Sunday, June 13, 2021

Text: Genesis 12:1-3

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Abram was 75 when God called him to get up and go. He was 75 when God made this promise to him; that he would be a great nation that would be blessed to be a blessing. Isaac, Abram’s (Abraham) first son with Sarah, was born when Abram was 100 years old. It took 25 years for the first child of the promise given to him to arrive. The beginning of the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham took time.

Waiting on God to fulfill all that He says he is going to do can be frustrating. Abraham and Sarah tried to rush things with their own plan and Sarah even laughed when three strangers said that she would be giving birth to her first child the very next year. However, when God makes a promise to you, He does not forget it; He fulfills it. If you feel like you are waiting on God today, take heart that you are not abandoned nor are you forgotten. God is working in your life to complete the work that He has started in you.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Monday, June 14, 2021

Text: Exodus 32:1

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

Moses was up on that mountain for 40 days. That is over a month! No one could see Moses since the cloud that surrounded the mountain blocked their view. When Moses first went up the mountain he kept coming back down with instructions, but this time, he has gone up and has not come back down for 40 days. The mountain shook, the thunder roared, and the lightning flashed; there was no way he was still alive! They needed a new leader and a new god to lead them to a new promised land.

I do not know about you, but I have had those dry spells where I have trouble seeing where God is at all. It is like a cloud has come and blocks me from seeing where God is at all. So I'm left wondering, "God, where are You? Where did You go? Did You abandon me?" However, what we see in this passage is that God never left. The people got scared and tried to find some comfort somewhere else because they were blinded from seeing where God was. If you feel scared and alone, please know that you are not alone. God promises to never leave you; ever. He is right there. In fact, He is closer than you think.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Text: Judges 7:13

¹³“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

The Midianites had invaded and conquered Gideon's homeland. His people and his family were being oppressed and exploited. All the people, including Gideon, felt that God had abandoned them and that God was bringing about their destruction. This passage is what Gideon says to God the moment God tells him that he is called to lead his people out of the bondage they are in into freedom. Instead of rejoicing at what God is about to do, Gideon stays stuck in wondering why bad things have come their way. After all, if God is with us, then none of this would have happened!

Bad things happen to good people. We know that. Sometimes there is never really an answer as to why. In the pits of despair, fear, doubt, anxiety, and worry it is hard to see that God can even be anywhere near at all. People can tell you that God is with you and your response is the same as Gideon's, "Pardon me, but if God is with me, why has all of this happened to me?" However, the reality is that God is with you and He carries your burdens for you. You are not alone.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Text: Judges 8:7-8

⁷The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” ⁸So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Yup, that’s right, Gideon again. The reason is that not only does God promise to set Gideon and everyone else free, God actually does it - and with only 300 people! God uses 300 people to go against this vast army of people in order to set them free. What we see in this is that God doesn’t need a lot to accomplish what He promises to accomplish. Gideon may have been hesitant, but God used the little bit of faith that Gideon had left to accomplish something amazing.

The same goes for you. We are told that our faith does not need to be great for God to do amazing things in our life. All you need is faith the size of a mustard seed; or in other words, even the smallest amount of faith simply needs to be present. Maybe you have been hurt, maybe you are overwhelmed by worries, fears, anxieties, etc., or maybe you have struggles letting go of the past. Whatever things are keeping you oppressed, God is there working in your life to set you free. And God does not need a lot, He can use the little that you have in order to do great things in your life. You are not alone; you can do this with God’s help.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Thursday, June 17, 2021

Text: 1 Samuel 16:12-13

¹²So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Rama.

It was so unexpected, but yet here God was choosing David to be something great. After this, we all know that David goes on to be considered the greatest king that Israel has ever had! Yet, what we often forget is the trail and the trials that came about before David got there. David was anointed and given the title by God as Israel's new king, but the old king was still in power. This old king constantly was trying to kill David. Even chased after David repeatedly to get rid of his competition. To get away from this, David flees to the land of the Philistines only to be arrested and put in prison. The only thing that saves him is that David acts insane to be set free. Where was God in all of this?

Have you ever felt so sure of something, that God was directing you down a path in life and then as real-world situations seemed to be preventing you from going where God is leading it felt as if you were no longer going down that path? I thought I knew where God was leading me after high school, but disappointment after disappointment which led me to where I did not think I would go made me think that I had gotten it wrong. However, God was still leading me to where He wanted me to be, and 12 years later God put me where He was calling me all along. Just because you're not on the path you think you should be on doesn't mean that God isn't working to accomplish in you all that He has called you to. It might take a while, but God isn't through with you yet.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Friday, June 18, 2021

Text: John 20:19-20

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

They had given it all up to follow Him. Peter, Andrew, James, and John all left their fishing boats and their families to follow Him. The sick were healed, the lame walked, the deaf heard, the blind saw, people were fed, and the dead were raised. But now; now it was over. The disciples fled, Peter denied, and Jesus died. What hope was left besides hiding away and hoping the storm would blow over. They could not go back to what they knew before, but how could they possibly move forward? They were stuck. Where was God in this?

Maybe you know what it is like to be or feel stuck. Life comes in and throws you curveball after curveball and now you're just doing what you can to keep on keeping on. The things that have taken place make it so you cannot go back to what you knew before, and what has happened

keeps you from being able to move forward. Notice where Jesus appears in this moment. He breaks through those locked doors that keep people out, sits in your midst, brings peace, and shows you that He's with you; that your scars and your wounds are now His.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*



Saturday, June 19, 2021

Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When I was in Sunday School growing up, I was told that when you are reading the Bible, whenever you see the word “therefore” go back and read what it is there for! If you go back to chapter 11, what you read about are the people that God had chosen and given promise after promise to. You will read that many of the people such as Abraham never got the chance to see the complete fulfillment of God’s promises in their lifetimes, however, they held on to the promises that God made to them, and they passed that faith on to their children. Even in all of the times when they could not see where God was; even in all of the times when their faith was shaken and/or small; they still held onto the promises of God and passed that on to others.

Sometimes it can be hard to see where God is during the storms that come our way. That is why it is not only so important to cling to the promises that God gives you, but also to be reminded of the stories of those who have gone on before us; this Great Cloud of Witnesses. Not just the stories of these biblical “heroes” but also the stories of those who passed on the faith to you. Not only their successes, but their struggles and fears as well. What kept them keeping on when things got tough? What kept them holding onto the faith that they carried with them and shared with you? You are not alone. Not only is God with you but so are those who have shared this faith with you to help carry you through the tough times.

Prayer: *Help me to be still and know that You are God.*

