

WHEN YOUR WORLD TURNS AGAINST YOU Part 3 of 3

from *And the Angels Were Silent* by Max Lucado

As long as you hate your enemy, a jail door is closed and a prisoner is taken. But when you try to understand and release your foe from your hatred, then the prisoner is released, and that prisoner is you.

Perhaps you don't like that idea. Perhaps the thought of forgiveness is unrealistic. Perhaps the idea of trying to understand the Judases in our world is simply too gracious. My response to you then is a question. What do you suggest? Will harboring the anger solve the problem? Will getting even remove the hurt? Does hatred do any good? Again, I'm not minimizing your hurt or justifying their actions. But I am saying that justice won't come this side of eternity. And demanding that your enemy get his or her share of pain will, in the process, be most painful to you. May I gently but firmly remind you of something you know but may have forgotten?
Life is not fair.

That's not pessimism; it's fact. That's not a complaint; it's just the way things are. I don't like it. Neither do you. We want life to be fair. Ever since the kid down the block got a bike and we didn't, we've been saying the same thing, "That's not fair." But at some point someone needs to say to us, "Who ever told you life was going to be fair?" God didn't. He didn't say, "If you have many kinds of troubles"... He said, "When you have many kinds of troubles..." Troubles are part of the package. Betrayals are part of our troubles. Don't be surprised when betrayals come. Don't look for fairness here — look instead where Jesus looked. Jesus looked to the future. Read His words: "In the future you will see the Son of Man coming."

While going through hell, Jesus kept His eyes on Heaven. While surrounded by enemies He kept His mind on His Father. While abandoned on earth, He kept His heart on home. "In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God, the Powerful One, and coming on clouds in the sky." "My kingdom does not belong to this world," Jesus told Pilate. "My kingdom is from another place."

Jesus took a long look into the homeland. Long enough to count His friends. "I could ask my Father and He would give me... twelve armies of angels." And seeing them up there gave Him strength down here. By the way, His friends are your friends. The Father's loyalty to Jesus is the Father's loyalty to you. When you feel betrayed, remember that. When you see the torches and feel the betrayer's kiss, remember His words: "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you."

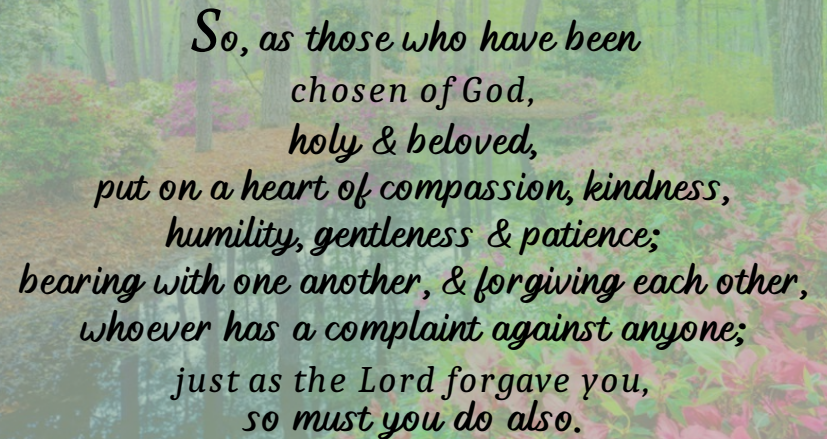
When all of earth turns against you, all of heaven turns toward you. To keep your balance in a crooked world, look at the mountains. Think of Home.

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
2 Corinthians 5:20-21

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez

March 21, 2021



*So, as those who have been
chosen of God,
holy & beloved,
put on a heart of compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness & patience;
bearing with one another, & forgiving each other,
whoever has a complaint against anyone;
just as the Lord forgave you,
so must you do also.*

Colossians 3:12-13

Welcome to Church!

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "Connect Card" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions! Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at www.fcbelen.net, or you may call us at 864-8621.

Activities for the Week

Sunday - March 21st

Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Young Adults @ the Sanchez' home - 7:00 p.m.

Monday - March 22nd

Tuesday - March 23rd

Ladies Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday - March 24th

Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Children's Ministry
Choir Practice
Rooted Youth
6:00 p.m.

Thursday - March 25th

Friday - March 26th

Saturday - March 27th

Deacons of the Week:

Art Fender
John Fender

Safety Team - March 28th:

Jaye Gardner
Deck Goodman
Jorge Acosta

If what you feel,
and what
God's Word says
are two
different things...

YOU'RE WRONG.

- Brooke McGlothlin -

Annie Armstrong Offering Concludes Sunday, April 4th

Across North America there are 366 million people. It's a daunting challenge to reach such a diverse mission field of cultures, languages & religions. Against all odds, they continue to move forward in their gospel mission & see lives transformed. Please be in prayer about what God is calling you to give.

Church Office Hours

Monday: 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed

The
mission
moves
forward

Mark Your Calendars...

A Hopeful Saturday

Pondering upon
A Remembrance of Hope
Saturday, April 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Please
join us

Invite your family
& friends

Invitations to hand out to family & friends are available at the Connection Desk.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

Camp is a great place for fun, wonderful memories and life-changing opportunities as we endeavor to point young people closer to Christ. It is a purpose filled time to break down barriers and build bridges with our young people in order to help them grow deeper in their faith.

Camp offers us a Great opportunity to Invest in Our Youth!

"Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths." Psalm 25:4

- ◆ **Cost: \$265.00/Camper**
 - ◆ **Full or Partial Scholarships are Greatly Appreciated**
- If you would like to help us send our youth to camp, please designate **Camp Scholarship** on your donation. **Thank you** for all you do!

Ladies: Let's don our hats for Resurrection Sunday Service.

Young Adults: Join Pastor Ernest & Rebecca - Sundays - 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Study: Tuesday, March 23rd - 9:15 a.m. - Faith Building

Wednesday Night Activities: Come Join Us! Adult Bible Study - Youth - Deaf Fellowship - Bible Study - Children's Ministry

Save the Date: Saturday, April 10th. Prayer Breakfast for **all** followed by Mission Kids jump rope making and Ladies Craft Day. Ladies, let's have a time of fellowship along with crafts and/or jump rope making.

Sermon Notes and Children's Bulletins are available at the Connection Center Desk.