



Life Point Church International

Sermon Journal 2024

Psalm 103:2

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits."

2024
The Year of God's Benefit



Psalms 103:2

*"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of
His benefits."*

Monthly Theme & Direction

January: Bless the LORD!

➤ Speaking of the Benefits of God

Psalms 103:1-2, 20-22

January 7th

Series Launch!

January 14th

*What it means to
Bless the LORD.*

January 21st

*Blessing the LORD
with our Emotions.*

January 28th

*The Power of
Vocality.*

February: How He Pardons our Iniquities!

- The Transformative Power of God's Forgiveness.

Psalm 103:3a

February 4th *To Err is Human!*

February 11th *Praying to Remain in Bondage.*

February 18th *Emblematic Power.*

February 25th *Forgiven to Go!*

March: How He Heals all our Diseases!

- A Theology of Healing.

Psalm 103:3b

March 3rd *Is it Always God's Will to Heal?*

March 10th *Healing and our lack of Faith.*

March 17th *The Delay for Greater Good.*

March 24th *O, To Know Him...*

March 31st *Easter Sunday.*

April : How He Heals all our Diseases!

- Lessons of “Pressing in” from the Sick.

Psalm 103:3b

April 7th *Releasing Demons!*

April 14th *Bleeding Out.*

April 21st *Too Late For a Miracle?*

April 28th *Healing through Death.*

May : How He Redeems our Life from the Pit!

- Lessons from within the Pit and How God Redeems.

Psalm 103:4a

May 5th *Jeremiah : Pit-Stop.*

May 12th *Mother's Day.*

May 19th *Jeremiah : Pit-Crew.*

May 26th *Daniel : Pit-Stop - Part 1.*

June: How He Redeems our Life from the Pit!

- Lessons from within the Pit and How God Redeems.

Psalm 103:4a

June 2nd *Daniel : Pit-Stop - Part 2.*

June 9th *Daniel : Pit-Stop - Part 3.*

June 16th *Father's Day!*

June 23rd *Daniel : Pit-Stop - Part 4.*

June 30th *Daniel : Pit-Stop - Part 5.*

July : How He Crowns us with Lovingkindness and Compassion!

- The Crowns of our Christian Walk.

Psalm 103:4b

July 7th *The Place of the Crown :
The Bema Seat.*

July 14th *The Imperishable Crown.*

July 21st *The Crown of
Righteousness.*

July 28th *The Crown of Life.*

**August: How He Crowns us with
Lovingkindness and
Compassion!**

➤ The Crowns of our Christian Walk.

Psalm 103:4b

August 4th *The Crown of Exultation.*

August 11th *The Crown of Glory.*

August 18th *Reigning with Christ.*

August 25th *Casting Crowns.*

**September: How He Satisfies our
Years with Good Things!**

➤ Lessons from the Dissatisfied and
Principles of Satisfaction.

Psalm 103:5a

September 1st *Church Picnic!*

September 8th *The Open Doors of
Dissatisfaction.*

September 22nd *The Fruit of Satisfaction -
Part 1.*

September 29th *The Fruit of Satisfaction -
Part 2.*

October: How He Renews our Youth!

- A Spirit of Youthfulness for Every Age.

Psalm 103:5b

October 6th *The Power of Waiting.*

October 13th *Attitude Adjustment.*

October 20th *A Renewed Perspective.*

October 27th *Strength for a Purpose.*

November: How He Performs Righteous Deeds!

- Noticing the Supernatural in a Natural Setting.

Psalm 103:6

November 3rd *If We Could Only See!*

November 10th *Supernatural through Serving.*

November 17th *Revelation through Witness.*

November 24th *Power through Death.*

December: How He Relates to Us!

➤ When God Gives Analogies...

Psalms 103:11-13

December 1st *As High as the Heavens.*

December 8th *As Far as the East is
From the West.*

December 15th *Just as a Father has
Compassion on His
Children.*

December 22nd *Bless the LORD!*

December 29th *Reflection and Authority
For a New Year.*

Well...what are you waiting
for???



Let's
Get



Steppin'



Monthly Message Direction:

January 7th

Series Launch!

January 14th

What it means to
Bless the LORD.

January 21st

Blessing the LORD
with our Emotions.

January 28th

The Power of
Vocality.

Date: January 7th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Series Launch: The Year of God's Benefit.



Text: Psalm 103; 2 Samuel 12:7-9a

“There is but one good; that is God. Everything else is good when it looks to Him and bad when it turns from Him.”

C.S. Lewis

The benefits of God are available to all of those who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior.

“Children are children and will all receive the benefits of their father. Each child is different. A father loves his children unconditionally but functions differently between each relationship. Difference in benefits between children does not signify a lack of or abundance of affection. Obedience always pleases a father. Children will always receive benefits. But obedient children, receive benefit in abundance. Benefit without correction or discipline.”

1 - God is generously willing to supply us with what we need in this life.

2 Samuel 12:8

- The anointing and deliverance of God always come with material blessings that we rarely recognize.
- 2 Samuel 12:7-8

Homes, relationships, and positions are released from the hand of God.

2 - Our direct connection to the benefits of God is contingent upon our obedience to the Word of God.

2 Samuel 12:9a

- Our lack of obedience is tied to actually despising the Word of God.
- We often do not obey because of spite! We know best!

To despise is to become reckless with something of great value because of the attraction of something that is of lesser value.

“If I obey Jesus Christ in the seemingly random circumstances of life, they become pinholes through which I see the face of God.”

Oswald Chambers

3 - We must listen for ways to be obedient in each of the benefits of God.

2 Samuel 12:9b

- This verse lists the disobedient action in the benefit of his life.
- This brought about consequence.

Obedience in the benefit, brings blessing and favor.



Spend time in the Benefit Booklet and ask the Lord for wisdom on how to become more obedient to Him so that you can live under the blessings and continual favor of God - who is more than ready and willing to bless you.

Date: January 14th, 2024
Speaker: Jen Paparatti
Sermon Title: Bless the LORD!
What it means to Bless the LORD.



Text: Psalm 103:1; Deuteronomy 8:10-11

“If God is the primal and inexhaustible ‘Blessed,’ then He must be above all others in a ‘blessed’ state - the Fulness and Source of all blessing.”

John Piper

Blessing the LORD with our mouth does not mean that we make God larger or higher. To “Bless” God means to recognize:

1. His great richness, (how rich is He?)
2. His great strength, (how strong is He?)
3. His gracious bounty, and (how gracious is He with what He has?)
4. To express our gratitude and delight in seeing and experiencing it.

1 - To bless the LORD is to not forget Him.

Deuteronomy 8:10-11

- Our verbal declaration is tied to our emotional memory trigger.

When you are full - Bless the LORD...

Or you will forget - And speak against your situation.

We speak no matter what.

- We either Bless the LORD vocally through our situation.
- Or we curse our situation vocally.

Which one are we currently doing vocally?

If we bless the LORD out loud, we remind ourselves and recognize His benefits.

If we remain silent, we allow unwanted feelings of abandonment (which are lies) to rise up and declare that God has not done anything for us.

Deuteronomy 8:12, 17

2 - When we experience something small (eating and being full), we must bless God for the greater (the Land).

Deuteronomy 8:10

When we have a “small” blessing and we bless the LORD for the “greater,” we actually bless the situation to produce more.

Example: If we receive a bonus at work and thank and bless the LORD for the bonus, the blessings ends there. But, if we receive a bonus, then we bless the LORD for the *job* that provided it, we have declared a continual blessing over the provision that *job* will have in our life.

When David blesses the LORD in Psalm 103, He is blessing Him for attributes that God has already done but also speaks them out in future tense: He pardon(s), He Heal(s), He Redeem(s), He Crown(s), He Satisfies...

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Take a moment and actually Bless the LORD out loud for the benefit that you do not have yet in your life. It may seem awkward to do it, but do it!!

Date: January 21st, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Blessing the LORD
with our emotions.



Illustration:

During a time of personal turmoil, photographer Rose-Lynn Fisher wondered how tears look close up. So she collected 100 tear samples, all taken under different circumstances, and analyzed them under a microscope. And what she discovered was that each tear portrayed a dramatic miniature landscape.

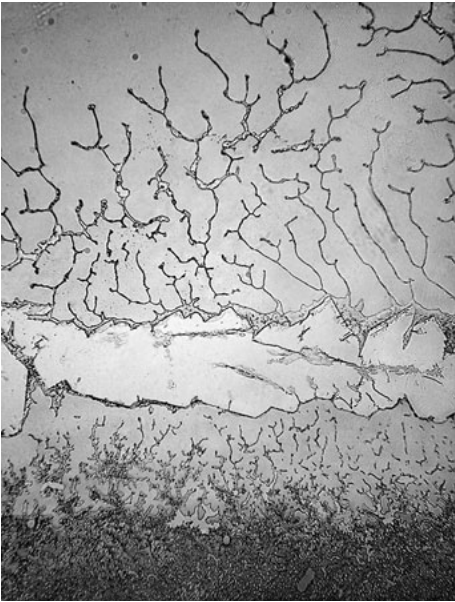
The project, "The Topography of Tears," captures unique moments in human experience. But there's also a scientific reason why every tear looks so different. There are three different types of tears: basal (lubricating), reflex (responding to stimuli) and psychic (triggered by emotion). Each type of tear contains different organic substances, and the molecular makeup depends on the causative agent. For instance, emotional tears contain the neurotransmitter leucine enkephalin, a natural painkiller that the body releases to mitigate stress.

And even tears caused by the same reason might look different once they crystallize. "There are so many variables — there's the chemistry, the viscosity, the setting, the evaporation rate, and the settings of the microscope," Fisher said.

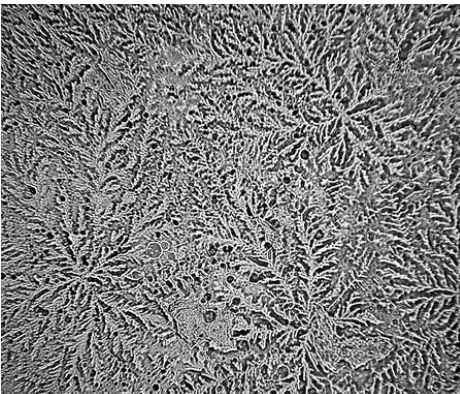
But while the science behind the individuality of tears is fascinating, it is overwhelmed by the poetic power of Fisher's photographs. Each tear is a

moment frozen in time, capturing the photographer's physical and mental state forever. "Although the empirical nature of tears is a chemistry of water, proteins, minerals, hormones, antibodies, and enzymes, the topography of tears is a momentary landscape, transient as the fingerprint of someone in a dream. This series is like an ephemeral atlas," she writes on her website.

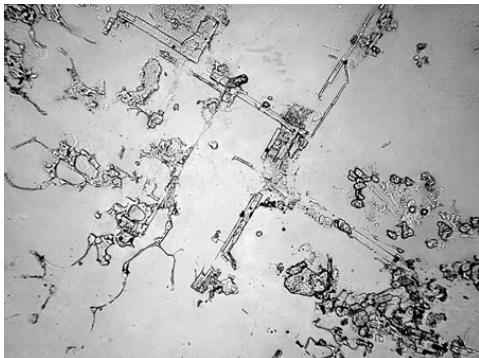
1 - BASAL



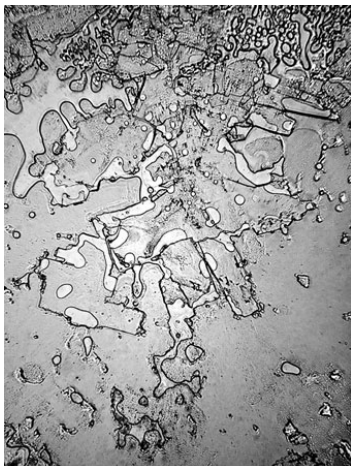
2 - ONION REACTION



3 - TEARS OF GRIEF



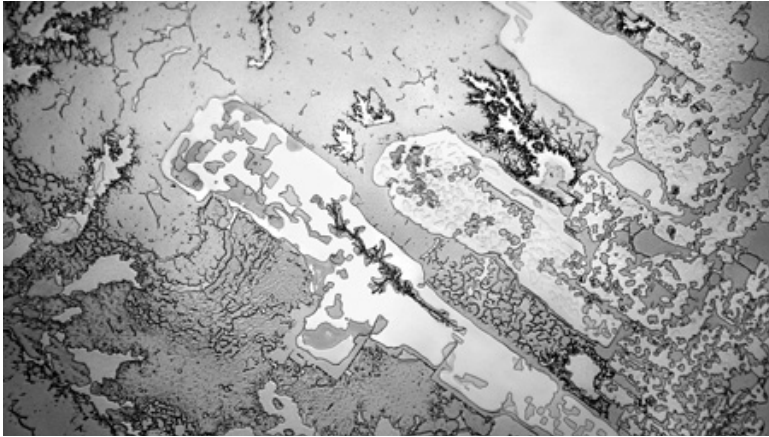
4 - TEARS OF LAUGHING TILL I'M CRYING



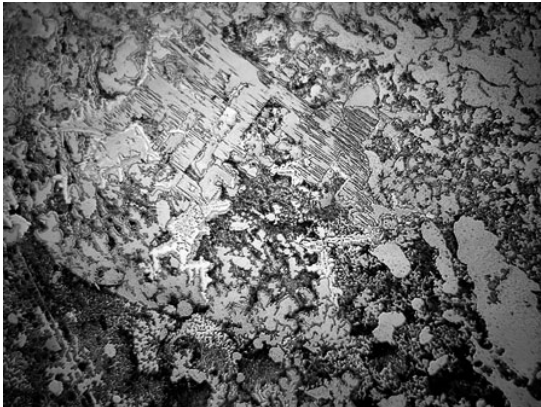
5 - TEARS OF CHANGE



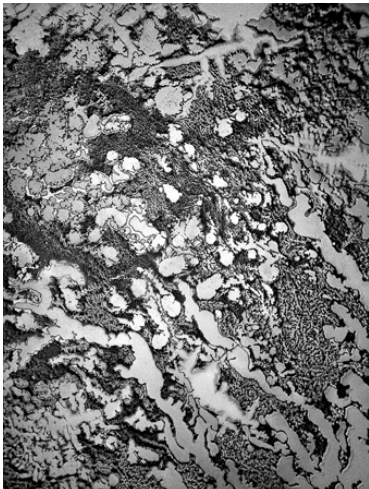
6 - TEARS OF TIMELESS REUNION



7 - TEARS OF ENDING AND BEGINNING



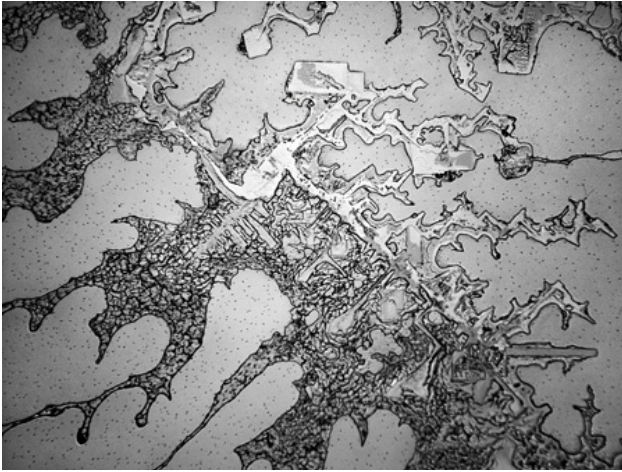
8 - TEARS OF MOMENTUM REDIRECTED



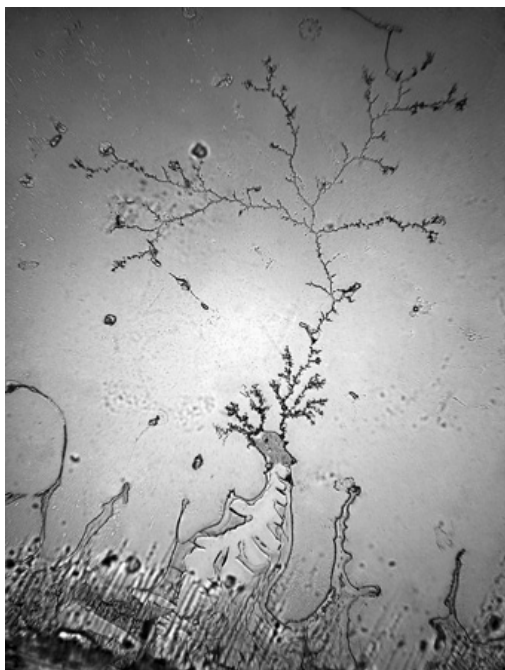
9 - TEARS OF RELEASE



10 - TEARS OF POSSIBILITY AND HOPE



11 - TEARS OF ELATION AT A LIMINAL MOMENT



12 - TEARS OF REMEMBRANCE



Date: January 21st, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Blessing the LORD
with our emotions.



Text: Psalm 103:1-2

“Science has proven that emotional tears have a different chemical composition than tears for lubrication or protection...the neurotransmitter leucine enkephalin. It is a natural painkiller.”
- Perspective Ministries

1 - We are instructed to align our personality expressions with our saved soul. Verse 1b

➤ *Within me.*

Within me is the Hebrew word *qereb* and means, *seat of emotions.*

➤ We must therefore bless the LORD with our emotions.

Blessing the LORD with our emotions becomes a practice in the life of a Christian.

1. We must confess and surrender our emotions to God.

Confessing our feeling to God is not weakness but an admittance of our need for Him.

2. We must speak to our emotions with Scripture.

This is not to imply that by reading a Scripture we have solved the complexity of human emotion. Many times we have done this and find our emotions to be the same. Yet, the more we battle with Scripture, the better we can see when our feelings are clearly being used to turn our attention

away from God and we can then fight the battle better with weapons given by God.

3. We must turn our emotions into actions.

Instead of wallowing in our feelings, bringing them to God also helps us understand how He might be directing us to act upon it.

2 - Blessing the LORD with our emotions is a choice, not a feeling.

Verse 1

- We must choose and act on the declaration of blessing God through the emotional frustration we are feeling.

Choices change feelings!

3 - Choosing to praise God through our emotional expressions, sets us up for being open to know and receive His benefits.

Verse 2

- Our emotional frustration always highlights the inhibitors of a fruitful life.
- Praising through our emotions highlights the pathways of victory and opens the doors of reception.

Until we act on praising and blessing the LORD with our mouth, we remain captive to an array of demonic oppressions.



Learn the actions of the acronym P.U.S.H.
Praise. Until. Something. Happens.

Date: January 28th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: The Power of
Vocality.



Text: Psalm 150

“Our vocal imprint contributes much more than we think to our success, both personally and professionally, even contributing to perceived attractiveness and charisma. Through our voices, we create nuances of meaning, convey our emotions, and find the secret to communicating our executive presence - that elusive quality we value in leaders who seem to naturally exude confidence and influence. Like fingerprints, no two voices have the same characteristics. Every one of us has a unique vocal image.”

Harvard Business Review April 13, 2022

**1 - Being vocal in our praise to God is
commanded. Psalm 150:6**

- *Everything that has breath...*
- Our very breath is not primarily intended for the sustenance of our physical life; but it is the granted for praise.

The very animals and vegetation we share this earth with are intended to praise God for His mighty name.

- Psalm 148:7-13
- Revelation 5:11-13
- Isaiah 43:19-20
- Job 38:39-41

Their praise causes them to accept and expect God's provision.

- Matthew 6:26
- Psalm 104:21, 24-28

Our praise releases trust for God's provision!

2 - Our vocal praise provides clarity of where we really are in our situation.

Psalm 100:1-3

- We are really in His pasture!
- This revelation opens for us spiritual access to physical blessing.

3 - Our vocal praise magnifies the presence of God in our situation.

Psalm 22:3; Hebrews 2:11-12

- Jesus is in our midst!

4 - Our vocal praise creates the opportunity for productivity.

Psalm 67:5-6

- There is a connection between our praise to God and our receiving from our land.
- Psalm 115:16-18

God has given us the earth (Psalm 115:16b) and our praise (Psalm 115:17-18) produces for us.

5 - Our vocal praise removes depressive spirits!

Isaiah 61:3

- There is a mighty difference between the mantle of praise and the spirit of fainting/heaviness.

The mantle of praise:

- A mantle is a complete body wrapping garment.
- *Praise meaning to shout adoration and thanksgiving.*

The spirit of fainting/heaviness:

- *Fainting* is the Hebrew word *keheh* and means: *dim, faded, or faint*.
- Its references include: discoloration caused by skin disease, eyes becoming dull or weak, and a faintly burning wick.

Our vocal praise will:

1. Change the irritating stain upon our life.
2. Sharpen our vision to see past what is happening in the flesh.
3. Ignite a powerful fire in place of a smoldering wick. (Isaiah 42:3-4)

“We have access to the (supernatural) joy of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:6; Galatians 5:22; Romans 15:13) independent of our circumstances and this joy should be visible (like a garment is visible) for others to see...”

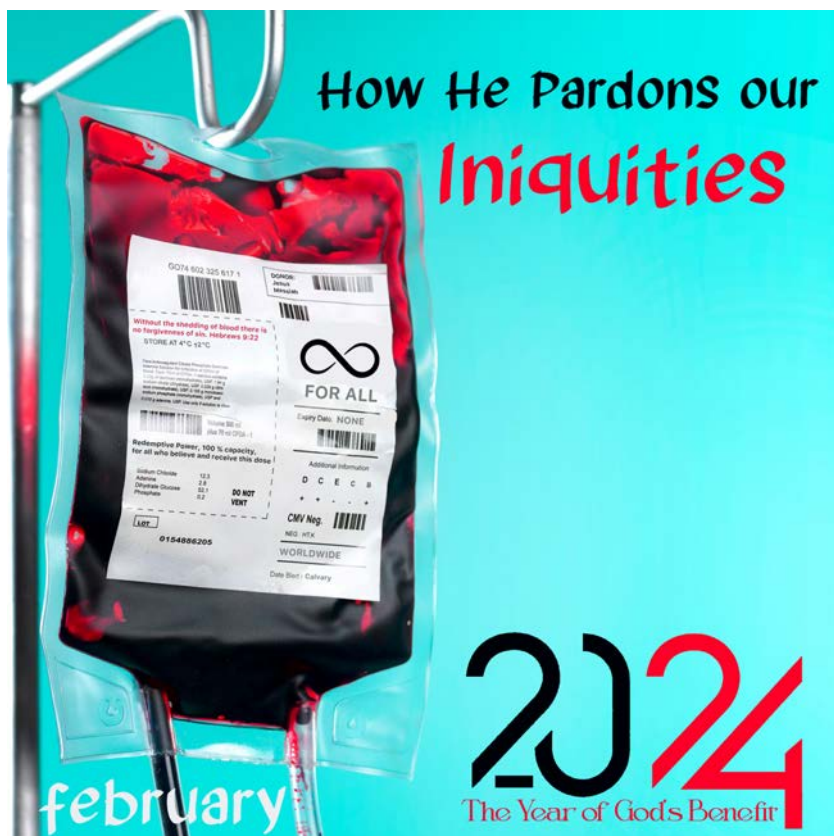
- We must inspect our wardrobe!!! What are we wearing?

“...The outward transformation of a person’s clothes and behavior (speaks of) a deep transformation of this person’s situation as well as their psychological reaction (by their spirit) to the changes God will introduce...” Gary Smith

Our psychological situation and reaction changes as we put on (vocalize) the praises of God!

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Need we say more? SHOUT out the praises of God. Let the sound resound in your home and in your life. Vocalize it! Hear it! Let praise ring out!



Monthly Message Direction:

February 4th

To Err is Human!

February 11th

Praying to Remain in
Bondage.

February 18th

Emblematic Power.

February 25th

Forgiven to Go.

Date: February 4th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: To Err is Human.
How He pardons our iniquities.



Text: Luke 5:17-26

“The real problem that we struggle with is not situational in origin. It is sinful.”

“You can’t sin without consequences.”

Todd Murray

1 - We must redirect our thoughts about our situation from feeling helpless to being responsible.

Verses 19- 20

- So often we play victim and feel frustrated that we do not have the situational blessings of His benefits.
- But, we are stuck because of sin.

So often we become stuck when we associate with verse 19a, *But not finding anyway to bring him in because of the crowd...* This is the pattern of being stuck in our situation:

1. There is no way...
2. There are people in the way...

Yet their action (faith in action) became extreme in every way:

Verse 19b

1. They climbed the roof - They did something unusual and out of the ordinary to reach Jesus.
2. Removed the tiles of the roof - They spent some time removing things that were in the way.

3. Let him down in the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus - Their action of faith was so public and visible.

This is the very faith that moves mountains:

- Matthew 17:20-21
- It is faith which is thrust by our action!

2 - Sin is a bigger and more costly problem than our frustrating situation. Verse 23

- Healing did not cost Jesus His life.
Forgiving sin did!

We often see the work of Christ backwards. We are quick to receive His forgiveness because it does not cost us anything.

- But our healing or deliverance places responsibility on our life. So we deem God not able to do it because we want it without cost.

3 - Once we deal with the pattern of sin, we open ourselves up to divine, situational intervention. Verse 24

- John 5:5, 7, 14
- Sin ties our bodies to situational consequence.

Sometimes our narrative is wrong. Our situation is bad because of our sin and not anyone else's fault.

John 5:7, 14

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

Action is key. Do something to instigate the complacent nature of your faith. Be extreme in private devotion and in public example.

Date: February 11th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Praying to Remain
In Bondage.



Sermon Illustration:

Opening: **August 30, 1984**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas -- A Texas A&M sophomore forced to run across campus by upperclassmen during an apparent hazing incident Thursday collapsed from heart failure and died, officials said.

Bruce Dean Goodrich, 20 of Webster, N.Y., died 3:45 p.m. at St. Joseph Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Elizabeth Scott. He had been in critical condition since being admitted at 4 a.m. with 'cardiopulmonary arrest,' she said.

Goodrich, 20, who enrolled at A&M Monday, and another sophomore transfer student were awakened about 2:30 a.m. by three junior-level cadets to take part in a forced run and exercises, university spokesman Lane Stephenson said.

The students went on a run through campus, and the two new members of the Corps of Cadets -- a leadership-lifestyle program with military orientation -- were also told to perform numerous push-ups and sit-ups. While running to the students' dormitory, Goodrich reportedly collapsed but was encouraged to get up and keep going.

'He collapsed during what students termed 'motivational exercise,' Stephenson said.

University President Frank E. Vandiver said the corpsmen involved were upset by Goodrich's death.

'We are shocked by the passing of Mr. Goodrich, and his family has our heartfelt sympathy,' he said. 'This was a most unfortunate accident -- a tragedy -- and I know that no one regrets it more than those involved. Their grief is, of course, shared by all of us.'

Mr. Goodrich died at a Bryan hospital the same day he collapsed. A preliminary autopsy showed he died of heat stroke.

A short time after the tragedy, Bruce's father wrote this letter to the administration, faculty, student body, and the corps of cadets: *"I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my family for the great outpouring of concern and sympathy from Texas A & M University and the college community over the loss of our son Bruce. We were deeply touched by the tribute paid to him in the battalion. We were particularly pleased to note that his Christian witness did not go unnoticed during his brief time on campus."*

Mr. Goodrich went on: *"I hope it will be some comfort to know that we harbor no ill will in the matter. We know our God makes no mistakes. Bruce had an appointment with his Lord and is now secure in his celestial home. When the question is asked, 'Why did this happen?' perhaps one answer will be, 'So that many will consider where they will spend eternity.'"*

Date: February 11th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Praying to Remain
In Bondage.



Text: Matthew 6:9-15; 18:21-35

“... We harbor no ill will in the matter... God makes no mistakes.”
Mr. Goodrich, 1984

1 - We can often curse our own situation and block the forgiveness of God by the unforgiveness of our own heart.

Matthew 6:12

- *“As we... ”*
- Who do we hold in contempt for any type of mistreatment?

“If we have unforgiveness in our hearts, we can have prayed the Lord’s prayer, prayed verse 12, and have prayed ourselves into hell! We would have declared that we want God to not forgive us just like we have not forgiven.”

We ought to manage the frustration of our heart through releasing and blessing.

- Luke 6:32-38 Key verse 38
- Verse 38 is in context of forgiveness and restoration.
- The following verses (Luke 6:39-45) expound on verse 38.

Lacking in active and visible forgiveness produces:

1. Blindness, Verse 39a
2. False sense of direction, Verse 39b
3. Inherent danger/stumbling. Verse 39c

2 - Temptation and evil in our situation can stem from unforgiveness. Matthew 6:13

- Unforgiveness becomes an open door for the attack of the enemy to remain.
- Nothing is beyond our ability to forgive. Nothing!

“Do not lead us into temptation...” Matt. 6:13a

- Unforgiveness invites temptation for vindication and a hypocritical and cynical spirit.

“For Yours is the kingdom...” Matthew 6:13c

- Matthew 16:19
- Through our unforgiving nature we condemn ourselves based on having the keys of the Kingdom of God to do so.

3 - The forgiveness of God always precedes the blessings of our situation.

Matthew 6:14-15

- Forgiveness precedes situational blessings.
- Matthew 6:31-33

4 - God’s forgiveness holds us accountable.

Matthew 18:35

- Accountable to receive judgment or to receive blessing. We actually choose.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

The actual act of forgiveness is manifested through our own action. Instead of harboring in inside, speak forgiveness out loud to the offender and pray for them. The release of Christ will come in abundance.

Date: February 18th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Emblematic Power!



Text: 1 Corinthians 10:16-22; Key Verse 18

“The purpose of the Lord’s Supper is to receive from Christ the nourishment and strength and hope and joy that come from feasting our souls on all that He purchased for us on the cross, especially His own fellowship.” John Piper

There is expressive power in observing communion.

- Communion is not a ritual to be observed, but a blessing to be received.

1 - We are participating in the power of the sacrifice. Verse 18

- When believers partake of the communion elements physically, we are also participating in Jesus’ death in a spiritual manner as well.

We are participating in the sacrifice of Jesus through remembrance.

2 - God’s forgiveness becomes our visible proclamation. 1 Corinthians 11:26

- To *proclaim* literally means to *preach*.

Each time we receive the emblems, we are literally, visibly preaching the price of the cross.

It is a proclamation *until* Jesus comes back.

- This proclamation is for a season only.
- We are living in the season of the power of this message.

3 - God's forgiveness is so mighty that taking it for granted can actually condemn a believer.

1 Corinthians 11:27

"Sin was the cause of that body being broken and that blood shed, and therefore the one who unworthily uses the symbols of them becomes a participator in the very guilt of those who crucified that body and shed that blood." - Ellicott

Those who treat the symbols of His body and blood with profaneness and contempt were "united in spirit" with those who put Him to death.

➤ Hebrews 6:4-6

The guilt of spiritual association with Christ's condemners, produces:...(Note to understand is that **the spiritual produces in the physical!**)

1. Judgment. 1 Cor. 11:29
2. Weakness (moral and emotional). 1 Cor. 11:30a
3. Sickness. 1 Cor. 11:30b
4. Judgment unto death. 1 Cor. 11:30c

4 - If received with a right heart and motive, God's forgiveness produces strength, healing, and life.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30

The antithesis of verses 29-30 show that proper proclamation of communion produces God's benefits in power.

- All of His benefits stem from our understanding, love for, and proclamation of His forgiveness through His sacrifice on the cross!

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇐

Sharing the table together!

Date: February 25th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Forgiven to Go!



Illustration for Point 3 - The Power of Six-Legs

Dr. Harry A. Ironside used to tell of an experience he had while he was the guest of a western sheep herder. One morning he saw an old ewe lope across the field followed by the strangest looking lamb he had ever seen.

It apparently had six legs! The last two seemed to be torn from the body and were just dangling there. The shepherd caught the odd lambkin and brought it to Dr. Ironside for examination. Closer inspection showed that the skin from another lamb had been stretched over its body.

The shepherd explained that this little one had been orphaned, and none of the ewes would adopt it. However, a day or two later a rattlesnake killed another young lamb. Its bereaved mother could not be consoled. She also stoutly rejected this orphaned animal when it was offered to her as a substitute.

However, when they skinned her own dead lambkin and draped its wooly coat over the orphaned one, she immediately accepted it, because it smelled right to her. Dr. Ironside was much impressed, and said: "What a beautiful picture of substitutionary atonement."

We too were once orphans — spiritual outcasts — without hope of Heaven. We were not acceptable to God because of our sin. However, the lovely Lamb of God took the sting of the 'old serpent' and died upon the cross for a lost world. Now by receiving Him through faith we are redeemed and made ready for Heaven because His righteousness has been applied to our account.”

Date: February 25th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Forgiven to Go!



Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

"We are not students, teachers, lawyers, nor doctors in "vocation," instead, we are ambassadors for Christ."
Page Patterson

1 - The forgiveness of God makes us into ambassadors. Verse 20a

- To be an ambassador holds the meaning of being a diplomat. A trusted, respected ambassador who is authorized to speak as such.

To be an ambassador in the ancient world (Greek, Roman, or Jewish), as in modern times, involved three things:

1. A commissioning for a special assignment.
2. A representation of the sender.
3. The exercise of the authority of the sender.

2 - The forgiveness of God causes us to have the Spirit of God appeal to the world through us.

Verse 20b

- His Spirit is making an appeal - not making an *"I'm sorry but..."*, or a *"That's really cool, I wish I could..."*, or even a *"Don't think of me wrongly but..."*

The appeal that His Spirit makes is a compelling, authoritative, convincing, and convicting charge about their current condition.

We can never allow Christ to make appeal through us if we are so connected to the world around us.

- **Connected in desire** - The more time we spend mulling around the desire of the world, the more we allow the root of desire to lay claim to deeper parts of our life. James 1:14
- **Connected in the world's fetishes** - Every desire outside of Christ given desires, becomes a manifested fetish in our alone time. Sexual fetish, mental-control fetish, even depressive fetishes. James 1:15a
- **Connected to the word's death** - Once we are connected to the world, the death of everything righteous begins to be strangled and choked away. It is a slow death and one that leaves us miserable. James 1:15b-16

3 - The forgiveness of God causes us to become the righteousness of God. Verse 21

- It is more than only accepting the forgiveness of God.
- We ought to live through the forgiveness of God.

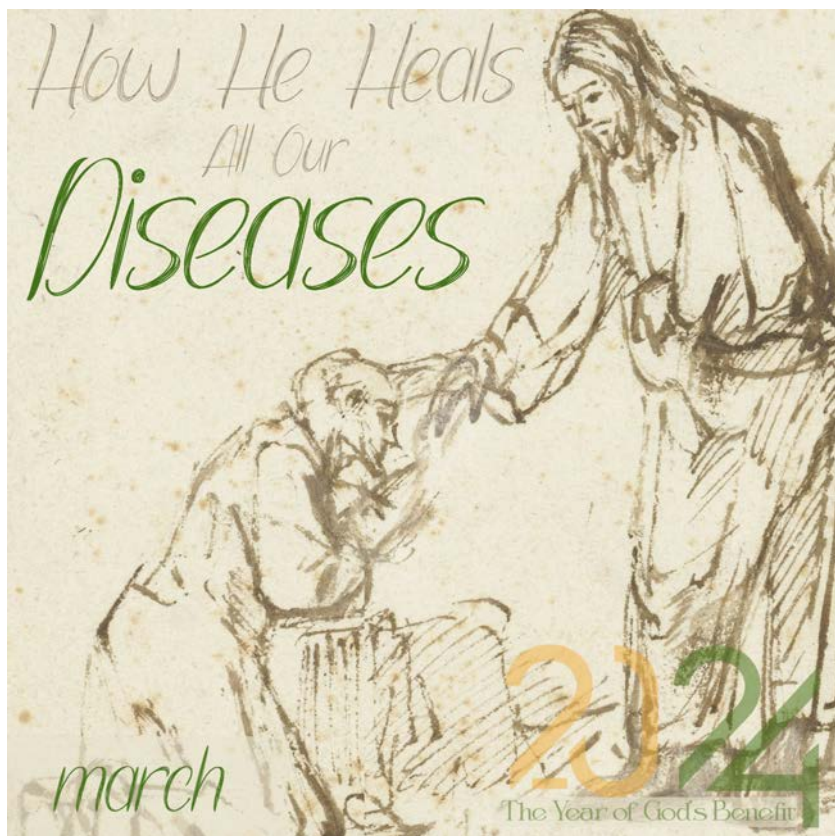
By walking through our life bearing the “Jesus Image”, it directs our actions and produces sudden and situationally power-filled moments which favor us and break strongholds.

- *The power of six-legs...*

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

1 - What must you reject that is standing in the way of you living through the forgiveness of God?_

Confess and actively live forward!!!



Monthly Message Direction:

March 3 rd	Is it always God's will to heal?
March 10 th	Healing and our lack of faith.
March 17 th	Delay for greater good..
March 24 th	To Know Him!
March 31 st	EASTER SUNDAY

Date: March 3rd, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Is it Always God's Will to Heal?



Text: Acts 3:1-16

"It is always God's will to heal. But, it may not always be instantaneously."

Why is there delay in healing?

1. Angelic warfare.

➤ Daniel 10:12-13, Mark 9:29

2. Lack of faith, obedience, or submission.

➤ Mark 6:5-6

➤ In context, it was actually a lack of honor which brought unbelief.

3. God is working a "greater good."

➤ John 9:1-3

4. God is drawing us to Himself.

➤ 2 Corinthians 1:9

"A lot of people pray for healing, not because they have faith, but because they have no faith."

Peter Haas

➤ Often times our prayers reveal our pathologies (sickness); our intercessions reveal our idols.

"We are praying for God's healing not because our trust in God is so big, but because our trust in God is so small that we can't imagine how God could give us joy and peace unless He gives us exactly what we want."

Peter Haas

If God answered all of those prayers for us, He'd simply be reinforcing our idolatry!

How God's perfect healing came to the lame beggar in Acts:

1 - Peter was not focused on giving the man healing, he gave him something greater.

Verses 3, 12, 16

- He gave the beggar the Name of Jesus and the faith which comes through Him.

2 - It should not be a surprise that God does heal!

Verse 12

- *"Why are you amazed at this..."*
- How great is our expectation in the Name of Jesus?

We lack in receiving, primarily because we live in a way in which we do not anticipate the touch of God. Subsequently, the touch of God forces us to live a holy and godly life. This is our healing struggle!

3 - There is something powerful to be said about our condition of faith and perfect health.

Verse 16; 3 John 1:2

- Prosperity in our life and healing in our body often times is intricately connected with the success of our faith in God.
- Healthy faith will understand that instant healing may give way to some of the intentions God is working as listed above.

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Put more effort in growing your walk with God than nursing the frustration of a lack of your standard of healing! Grow spiritually and LIVE!

Date: March 10th, 2024
Speaker: Ema Gavidia
Sermon Title: Healing and our
Lack of Faith!



Point 2 - After Allan Carr Quote

They resorted to ridicule! Ridicule is the final refuge of a small mind! They called Him “*the son of Mary*”. This was never done in that society! A male was always referred to as the son of his father, even if his father was dead. To call a boy the son of his mother was to imply that his mother had played the harlot. The people were calling the birth of Jesus into question.

Of course, the people of that day rejected the notion that Jesus was born by supernatural means through a virgin womb. They consistently called His birth into question:

- John 8:41; John 9:29

Dr. Alan Carr

Date: March 10th, 2024

Speaker: Ema Gavidia

Sermon Title: Healing and our
Lack of Faith!



Text: Mark 6:1-6

“Although our contemporary preoccupation is with the power to heal, we err by failing to understand the miracle of God’s grace in granting the power necessary for endurance and patience.”

Alistair Begg

Miracles were already happening in verse 2, yet they stopped just after verse 3.

1 - Few healings could be done because of the people’s lack of faith. Verses 5-6

- Jesus wondered at their unbelief.
- Jesus’ wonder was not in that He did not know *why* they had unbelief, but that He was *grieved* at their unbelief.

The people were in need and yet were limiting themselves from receiving from Jesus because of their frustration.

2 - What is usually a “lack of faith,” could be characterized as offense towards Jesus.

Verse 3b

- They struggled with receiving from Jesus because they did not honor Him. They were too familiar with Him that they did not respect His position of power.

“Because these people could not explain [the ways of] Jesus, they refused to listen [obey] Jesus.” Dr. Alan Carr

A. Honor is connected to the supernatural.

- Ephesians 6:2-3

- Honor brings favor and enjoyment of life.
- Lack of joy may be from dishonor.

B. *“We give honor not because a person is honorable, but because of what honor does in us and to those around us.” - Peter Haas*

- Genesis 9:20-27
- Noah was acting dishonorably when he got drunk. But Ham’s dishonoring of Noah brought a curse upon him and his children.
- 2 Samuel 1:23
- Once David becomes King, he writes a psalm for the entire nation to memorize, honoring Saul and Jonathan.
- Saul was intent on killing David for over a decade.

C. Honor is something we sow and therefore reap.

- Galatians 6:7
- How many people in Jesus’ hometown were supposed to be receiving healing but missed out because of dishonor?

3 - The Act of honoring Jesus is a gateway to the supernatural door of receiving healing.

Verse 4a

How do we honor Jesus? We cannot take what we have or have not received from Jesus and become angry or forlorn with distrust.

- We honor through action manifested disciplines of trust. More of Jesus evident, less of me.

⇐LIVE it OUT⇒

If people can only hear about our issue and do not see Jesus in our life or through what we say, we struggle with offense at Him. Lift up Jesus, vocally, visibly, and repeatedly!!!

Date: March 17th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Delay for Greater Good!



Text: John 9:1-41

“We must leave room for mystery in God’s ways. Some things will always remain unexplained. Why God does or does not choose to heal is ultimately subject to His wisdom and sovereign purposes. Why God chooses to heal in part or in whole, now or later, this person but not that one, is often beyond our capacity to understand. Resist the tendency to replace divine mystery with human formulas.”

Sam Storms

The man born blind was *allowed* to be born and grow up blind until the day that Jesus met him. He was prepared for the works of God (Verse 3).

1 - Sometimes the delay is for a greater purpose!

Verses 3, 13, 35, 38; John 10:21

- Many people were touched through a delay in healing.

In fact, this man’s delayed healing is still causing results today. We are drawn nearer to God, 2000 years after this because it happened at God’s right time and not our own!

2 - The proper question for us as analysts of this encounter is: How can this be used for God’s glory?

Verse 4-5

- Suffering through our delay requires a new point of view.

It can be used for the glory of God through:

1. **Personal relationships.** There is often a conviction and personal godly journey that

takes place in the lives of those near to us when we are delayed in our healing.

2. **Divine encounters.** Opportunities for the gospel that would never come up if we had not suffered and been delayed. Often delay is really about spiritual encounters along the way.
3. **Spiritual dependency growth.** Our delay causes us to deepen and depend on God. It develops the spiritual reflex muscle to reach out to God.
4. **Perseverance** through the delay can become the healing for someone else even if we do not receive healing. In Acts 7:54-60, Steven's perseverance and delay in deliverance builds faith in us today.

3 - The man's healing (verse 7) resulted in a complete rearrangement of his life.

Verses 18, 22, 28, 34

- His healing caused him to lose his entire identity in his world.
- To the world in which he was born, because he was kicked out of the synagogue, he could no longer associate with Judaism and was removed from his people.

Healing does not bring normalcy back! We must live radically!

Verses 35-38

- Are we ready to live radically if healing comes? If not, our healing is actually our idol. We desire healing, but never change!

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Evaluate the healing you need and make room for a radicle relationship with Jesus. In fact, live radically before your healing!

Date: March 24th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: To Know Him!



Text: 2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Key Verse: 9

“Maintaining an active lifestyle is critical to good health; this is especially true for patients recovering from wounds or extended hospital stays. Robust activity can improve mental health, reduce the risk of infection, and accelerate wound healing.”

-Keylock & Young BGSU.edu

Sometimes the delay of our healing is so that we can actively know Christ!

- To know Him actively;
- To be active in knowing Him.

1 - God will sometimes delay a healing, so our trust in Him will flourish.

Verse 9a

- *So that we would not trust in ourselves...*
- If we question this point, we clearly struggle with trusting God to sustain our life.

2 - Paul came to realize that healing or deliverance was not required for living life to the fullest.

Verse 9b

- *...But in God who raises the dead.*
- Living our life through Christ is all that is needed to live fully.
- Philippians 1:21
- Galatians 2:20

3 - The delay in our reception of healing should magnify in us, the power of God to heal and not our frustration of not being healed.

Verses 9c- 10

- When Paul was faced with delay, he focused on the power of God to deliver.
- Four times in 2 verses, Paul magnifies the power of God to deliver or rescue.

We can only grow in our faith and trust in God if we accept that God is working in our life for His glory and our greater good.

- If we do not accept this fact, we run aimlessly and strike blindly.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

- *We must run in such a way as to win...*
- To not run aimlessly, to avoid hitting air, is to realize that there is purpose in delay.

It is not that we are accepting the delay! We are accepting that God is working through the delay.

4 - Our healing delay should connect us more to the body of Christ.

Verse 11

- There is always strength in numbers!
- Solitude is the enemy's strategy of isolation, so that we can be led astray and devoured.

Paul asks the church to pray for them so deliverance would come more quickly. Yet, he also states that by many people giving thanks, favor in delay would be revealed.

⇨ LIVE IT OUT ⇨

Let us pray for the revelation of favor in delay!

Date: March 31st, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Easter Sunday!



Text: Mark 15:40-41, 47, 16:1

“Two thousand years ago, in the Middle East, an event occurred that permanently changed the world. Because of that even, history was split. Every time you write a date, you’re using the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the focal point.”

- Rick Warren

These women were seemingly insignificant in the story of Jesus’ ministry and death account. *But, they were there!*

These women were always in the background and always serving, ministering, and following Jesus.

- Luke 8:1-3
- These women were the background noise of the Gospel.

While they were seemingly insignificant, they were realistically intricate to the greatest display of God’s power: The resurrection of Jesus.

1 - Consistency produces intimacy and strength.

- None of the disciples could handle the events of the crucifixion. They scattered and fled.
- After Jesus was taken down from the cross, the disciples hid and fled.

Not so the women. They kept watch. They were dedicated in the background ministry of Jesus. The ministry which no one saw...except Jesus.

- Because of this, they were the first to receive the revelation of the resurrection of Jesus.

2 - Following Jesus is not about the greatest thing we can do for Him. It is about faithfulness in doing what He calls us to do.

- The women ministered to Him; they followed Him; they looked to see where Jesus was laid (for a purpose); they brought spices to anoint His body (embalm Him).

They were willing to do the dirty and difficult work of following Jesus - Embalming His distorted and unrecognizable figure - not because they were asked to; but because they loved Him.

3 - Living in one chapter of revelation from the love of God is worth more than ever being recognized in the previous 15 chapters.

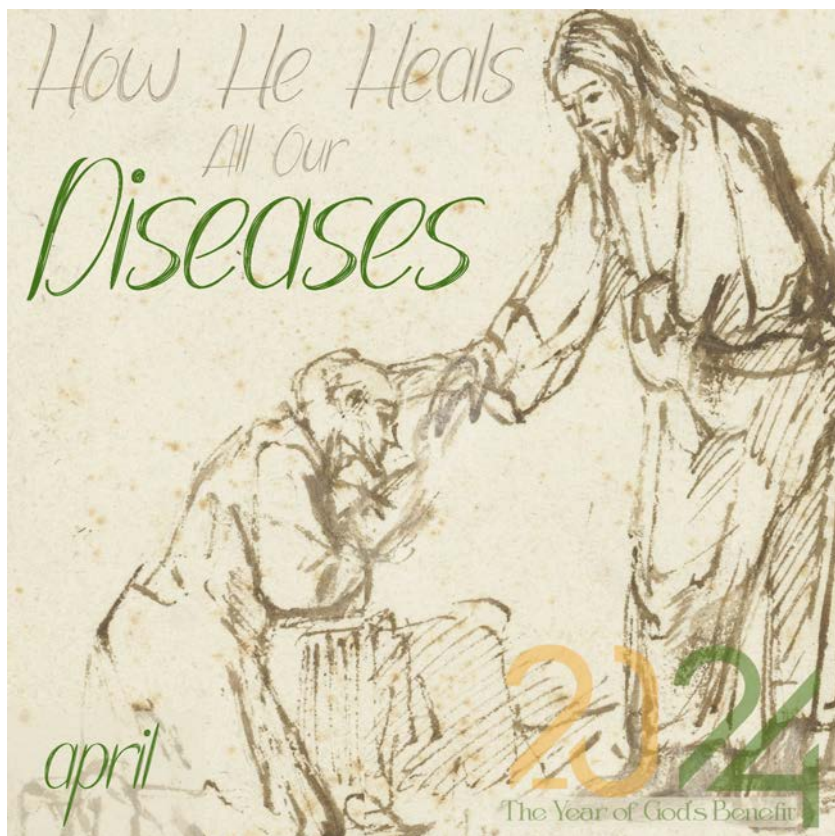
The gospel of Mark has 16 chapters. The women literally had only a portion of 1 chapter, but this portion is actually the buildup of the entire Bible.

Faithfulness in the everyday dealings of our Christian walk, produces the realities and revelations associated with the resurrection of Jesus.

- It is a daily fellowship that causes us to live forward and upward in life.
- We can take courage because the resurrection of Jesus has transformed our reality.

⇨ LIVE IT OUT ⇨

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a reaffirmation of your heart to faithfulness in His work.



Monthly Message Direction:

April 7 th	Releasing Demons!
April 14 th	Bleeding Out!
April 21 st	Too Late for a Miracle?
April 28 th	Healing through Death!

Date: April 7th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Releasing Demons!



Text: Mark 5:1-20

“The Bible teaches that the origin of false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1) and the origin of all false religion is demonic (1 Corinthians 10:19-20). This explains the frequency of demonic possession among people of false religions and the strong demonic opposition of missionary work in so many places throughout the world.”

1 - The man was willing to be delivered even though the door for oppression/possession was open. Verses 2, 5

- If the man was not willing, the spirits would never have run up to Jesus.

In whatever we face that is of the oppressive nature, one thing is for sure: we must be willing to be set free.

- John 5:6
- What is our excuse for the lack of God's touch? He doesn't love me? He is too busy? He loves others more than me?
- *Do we really want to change?*

If we really want to change, we can expect a revolt in our life and a massive attack from the source of oppression.

2 - His own methods of deliverance only hurt him more. Verse 5

- People turn to many methods of self-inflicted harm and manic episodes of outbursts under the guise of expression and release.

- Yet the truth remains that no method in this world can ever help or cure the human condition except an encounter with Jesus.

Self-inflicted harm is more than the cutting with stones. It also involves isolation, mental torment, and a desire for the oppressive (tombs).

- The more oppressed we feel, the more attention we crave.

3 - The deliverance and healing that Jesus offers will completely disrupt the normalcy of our life.

Verse 15b

- It is highly unfortunate that depressions, oppressions and even possessions have become normalized in our society.
- *Illustration: Holotropic yoga meditation?*
- To the point that freedom and life through Jesus brings fear and anxiety in our society.

4 - Although Jesus brought about an immediate healing for the man, the man was not only willing to be delivered, but he had already counted the cost to completely follow Jesus.

Verse 18

- There was nothing from his previous life that the man wanted to be connected to again.

5 - The greater purpose of this healing was strategic evangelism.

Verses 19-20

- Jesus instructed him to live as a testimony to the world around him.

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

“If you were healed today, would you go and be a missionary tomorrow?” Would you at least live like one?

Date: April 14th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Bleeding Out!



Text: Mark 5:24-34

“Health is a good thing; but sickness is far better, if it leads us to God.”
J.C. Ryle

Medicine in this text was not a bad idea. It only took the woman so far and she could go no farther.

Verse 26

The reason that she got to a place of bold action towards Jesus was because she *did* exhaust all alternatives.

- The woman knew exactly who Jesus was and exactly what she could expect from Him.

1 - Her healing began with a faith risk.

Verse 27; Leviticus 15:25-27

- Any situation we touch on our own, always becomes more unclean. Yet if we touch Jesus, He does not become unclean, but our uncleanness is gone.

The woman's risk was so big that if it did not work, she could never again be seen in society.

She risked:

1. Everyone she came in contact with, to become unclean and not be able to ceremonially worship God.
2. Having a synagogue official know what she did and cast her out of the temple with fear of death by stoning.

2 - She clung to Jesus, believing He was bound to help her. Verses 27b-28

- Mark uses the word *garment*. But the other gospels give us more clarity.
- Matthew 9:20; Luke 8:44
- The woman grabbed on to the *tassels* or Hebrew *tzitzit* of Jesus garment.

She was not the only one!

- Mark 6:56
- The word *fringe* of His garment, is the Greek word, *kraspedon*. In the Septuagint (Greek writing of the O.T.) It translates Numbers 15:38, Hebrew *Tzitzit* as Greek *Kraspedon*.

What are the *tzitzit* or *tassels*?

- Numbers 15:37-41

The Tzitzit represented:

- The Word of God in flesh,
- The Authority of God in flesh,
- The Humility of God in flesh,
- The Healing of God in flesh.

3 - She held on to the authority of Jesus to not only heal her, but to make her immediately socially restored. Verses 33-34

- The healing was instant. So also was the payment for being unclean. Jesus made it clear to everyone that she was more clean than they because she reached out to trust God for His power and compassion.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Completely rely on the authority of Jesus. Take a risk with Him. Do more than you have ever done for Him.

Date: April 14th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Bleeding Out!



Illustration:

www.therefinersfire.org/tallit.htm

The Tzitzit

In ancient Israel, men wore four-cornered outer tunics with these tassels, or *tzitziyot*, tied to the four corners. This outer garment became known as a tallit, and eventually evolved into the more formal prayer shawl. But, why tassels? These tassels were to remind each Jewish man of his responsibility to fulfill God's commandments. In fact, these tassels are tied into 613 knots to constantly remind them of the 613 laws of Moses, of which there are 365 prohibitions (The "thou shalt not" laws), and 248 affirmations (the "thou shall" laws). The knots also correspond with the ineffable name of God, the unspoken yod-hey-vav-hey, Yahweh.

Because they were hanging on the four corners of your garment, in full view of everyone including yourself, they would be a constant reminder to walk according to God's Laws.

Wearing these tassels would be comparable to us wearing a large Bible on a rope around our necks.

When deep in prayer, Jewish men will put these prayer shawls over their heads to shut out the world and be in the presence of God.

The prayer shawls are white, representing the heavens, or the dwelling place of the Lord. And, the color blue represents the Ruach HaKodesh, or Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, praying under the tallit, or prayer shawl, is covering yourself with the presence of God. From biblical times, this custom was like a prayer closet, and it is likely this is what Jesus was referring to in Matthew 6:6, when He told us to get into our closet, apart from the people around, and pray in secret to the Lord.

This tallit was the mantle worn by Samuel (I Sam. 15:27), and it was Elijah's mantle that was conferred upon Elisha (I Kgs. 19:19). It was also worn by Jesus, and the "*hem of the garment*" that was touched by the woman with the issue of blood was actually the *tzitziyot* or tassels of His tallit.

The purpose of the four fringes on a garment was, and is, and still will be to proclaim the Word of the Lord, so as to remember them and perform them.

Snails

Each tassel was to have a blue thread. With blue so prevalent in our world today, it is hard to imagine that during the entire biblical period, blue was probably the most expensive color to produce. Therefore, it was reserved for royalty and the wealthy who could afford it. Before synthetic dyes, the only source was a small gland in the murex snail. It produced what we know as Tyrian Purple or Tekhelet Blue. It took 12,000 snails to fill up a thimble of blue dye. In 200 BC, one pound of cloth, dyed blue, cost the equivalent of \$36,000. By AD 300, this same pound of blue cloth cost \$96,000. This indicates that Lydia, the seller of

purple and an early convert of Christianity, was one of the wealthiest women in the Empire (Acts 16:14).

In the "shorthand" of the Bible, this tidbit of information about Lydia, which means very little to us today, said a lot to early readers of the text. It said, in effect, *"Hey, one of the wealthiest and most influential people in the Roman Empire has gotten saved!"* Imagine the impact this would make on the message of the Gospel.

Blue also represented something divine, which is why royal blue set people apart from the rest of the common world. Therefore, to have a blue thread was to have something of the divine and royal, and served to remind each wearer of his significance in God's sight. After all, God calls us to be a royal priesthood. This treasured thread would probably have been passed on from a father to his son as one of his precious legacies.

Authority

These tassels also came to be associated with a person's authority. Saul and David: In the case of King Saul, we find that David humiliated him by sneaking up to him in a cave at the Spring of Ein Gedi and cutting off Saul's tassels, a symbol of his authority. David's men said:

"This is the day the Lord spoke of when He said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish'... Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he

is the anointed of the Lord" (I Sam. 24:4-6). Why was David upset with himself? Because he understood that to steal someone's tassel was to steal his authority. Even though David did this to prove to Saul that he was not trying to kill him, the symbol of taking the corner fringe would be humiliation to Saul. This bothered David. David immediately went out of the cave and prostrated himself in humility before Saul to prove to Saul that he was not trying to kill him. David said: "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you?' This day have you seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the Lord's anointed.' See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe, but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life..." (I Sam. 24:8-11).

Everyone, including Saul, knew that David had been anointed by Samuel to be the next king, which is why Saul feared David. At Ein Gedi, David had literally taken Saul's authority and at that point, he probably could have taken the throne from Saul. But, he didn't; rather, he let God choose the time for him to receive the throne. This act convinced Saul that David was telling the truth. David's act of giving back Saul's authority also reconciled the two men. Saul said: "May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the

kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands" (I Sam. 24:19b-20).

Boaz and Ruth: Another example of the authority represented in the tassel is found in a passage in the book of Ruth, which is sometimes difficult to understand. In Chapter three, Ruth went to Boaz to receive his blessing that would help her out of her difficult situation. She went to the threshing floor and slept at his feet.

"In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am your servant, Ruth,' she said. 'Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman redeemer'" (Ruth 3:8-9).

He immediately understood and said to her: "Don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character" (Ruth 3:11). He proceeded to make every arrangement to help her, and eventually, he married her. What Ruth did in asking Boaz to spread the corner of his garment over her was a symbolic way of saying she was placing herself under Boaz's authority.

Humility

By the end of the Second Temple period (70 BC - AD 135), tassels had become a symbol of social status. The wealthier you were, the more grand your tassels might appear. This is human nature, since we might also be tempted to "show-off" with a public display, e.g. the kind of car we drive, the house we live in, or the jewelry we wear. It is known that during the time of Jesus, the tassels of

some Pharisees were so long and elaborate, that they dragged on the ground. It was this ostentatious display of pride that Jesus was rebuking when He said, "[They make...the tassels of their prayer shawls long...](#)" (Mt. 23:5).

Under his wings

Let's go back to the woman on the shores of the Sea of Galilee who came to Jesus for healing. When she pressed through the crowd, she was not content to just pat Jesus on the back. She was a desperate woman, who had spent all of her money on cures that did not work. It was a bold step for her to push through that crowd of people, for according to Levitical law, it was forbidden for her to be out in public with her condition, for she was considered unclean (Lev. 15:25). However, she was at the end of her rope. She had nothing to lose. She had heard of the Messiah who could heal and she anxiously sought Him out. But why did she want to touch the hem of His garment - the tassels of His tallit?

These *tzitziyot* were a point of contact she needed to help her release her faith to receive a miracle in her life. What did they represent?

1. First, they represented the Word of God, which is always the place where we can find healing for all the needs in our life.
2. Second, the fringes also represented the authority of Jesus. She had heard that many people were healed by Jesus, that He taught with authority, and when He spoke, people were healed.

3. Third, there was even more to these fringes. The prophet Malachi spoke of the Messiah of Israel and said of Him, "**But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in His wings**" (Mal. 4:2). The Hebrew word for "wings" used in this passage is *kanaf*, which is a word that specifically means the fringe-like feathers or edges of a bird's wing, not the whole wing.

The Word for Tassels is *Tzitzits*. The root for the word *Tzizit* is the Hebrew word *tsiyts* which means *blossom*.

- Did the *tzitzits* used to look like blossoms?
- No...that would be thinking under Greek Idea. To understand Hebrew you must not think with appearance but think with function.
- What is the function of a blossom? To bring about fruit!
- Wearing the Tzizit was about reminding the people to see and observe the law.

Malachi 4:2, "**But for you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.**"

- Wings is the Hebrew word *kanaph* and means wings or corner or edge.
- So *He* will come with healing in His corners.

The only difficulty of this verse is that it says the *sun* and not the son.

The sun god of Persia is *ahura mazda* and depicts a god rising with the sun and with wings.



The sun god of Egypt was *horus*. It depicts the sun rising with wings.



This is where the translating problem comes in. In this verse, the Hebrew word for *sun* is *shemesh*

שֶׁמֶשׁ. In the Masoretic text (most recent text), the vowel points are added (three dots at the bottom) which cause the word to be pronounced *shemesh*. In the original text, the vowel point were not there. The word for *servant* is the Hebrew word *shamash* and spelled the exact way as *shemesh* except without the vowel points which render it a different word and pronunciation.

What if the text was originally meant to translate as: the *Servant* of Righteousness will rise with Healing in His corners or Tzizit.

➤ This makes more sense.

The woman had heard Jesus was the Messiah. Perhaps she remembered this messianic promise from the scroll of Malachi and thought, if I am to be healed, then will it be found in His wings...

His *tzitziyot*? By faith, she reached out and touched the fringes, and was healed.

All who touched His Tzizit were not healed simply by touching the fringes of Jesus' garment in a crowd. They were healed when their faith touched the power of God and the One who could heal their infirmities. It was their point of contact to release their faith to receive a touch from the Lord.

Date: April 21st, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Too Late for a Miracle?



Text: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

“Jesus has proven that even death is not an obstacle that can stand in the way when He has chosen to heal.”

1 - The crippling blow to faith is always the sudden uprising of fear. Verse 36

- This is a unique passage in which Jesus heals, but bases that healing on another's faith.

The sick girl needs healing. The dead girl needs resurrection. Jairus needs the faith to see it through.

Jesus' instruction to Jairus shows that Jairus had given up hope for a healing in his home.

The battle will always be a match between our faith and our fear.

Whatever we focus on grows bigger in our mind.

Saturday, April 20, 2024 - News fears:

- BBC home page: 30 articles targeting fear
- CNN home page: 70 articles targeting fear
- FOX home page: 77 articles targeting fear
- REUTERS h. p. : 44 articles targeting fear

Isaiah 26:3-4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- We can never combat fear with anything outside of the Word of God and Prayer!

The only aspect inside of verse 36 that holds any contradiction to fear is - Jesus and the absence of outside voices.

- Jesus spoke to Jairus,
- Jesus did not allow anyone to follow.

2 - When our faith waivers, we must still make the decision to keep following where Jesus is leading in the situation. Verses 36-37

- Jairus still followed Jesus!

We will often be moved to unfollow Jesus, unfollow His ways, and unfollow His Church.

- Yet, the follow through of our Christian walk builds up faith.

3 - To cast out fear, our surrounding crowd must be intentional, specific, and full of faith.

Verse 37

- We must make hard decisions on how to follow Jesus more closely.
- There were two very specific instances of Jesus clearing out the crowd. In verse 37 and in verse 40.

Consistency and determination in weeding the wrong people out and bringing the right people in, will always prepare the room of our life for Jesus to miraculously move.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Is it too late for a miracle/healing? No! It will just take a determined heart to drastically change your atmosphere and surrounding.

Weed out the fear influences and plant in the faith-filled influences. This change is in our hands.

Date: April 28th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Healing in Death.



Text: Matthew 11:2-12; Mark 6:14-32

“The best moment of a Christian’s life is his last one, because it is the one that is nearest heaven.” Spurgeon

Our greatest fear, when it comes to healing, is that we will not be healed and our ultimate reality of death fills our mind.

John the Baptist was in prison and struggling with:

1. The love of God towards himself, and
2. The reliability of Jesus to set him free.

John the Baptist knew who Jesus was:

- Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:29-36

When we ultimately do not see supernatural intervention in what we are facing, there are some truths that we must solidify in our faith:

1 - Just because we may not experience the deliverance or healing in our own situation does not mean that He does not love us or that He is not able to do so. Matthew 11:11, 5

- While a sickness or hardship may seem like the greatest struggle of our life - it is not!

All of the benefits of God can be experienced through Christ; yet they are not the focus of our life nor are they the reason for our existence.

- Our emotions and life patterns may say one thing (Acts 1:6); but His purpose may be completely adverse to ours (Acts 1:8)

- Could we handle a mandate such as this considering the disciples oppressive generation of life?

2 - The greatest experience we can have is not our healing or deliverance from a hardship, but the intimacy of a close walk with Jesus.

Matthew 11:6; John 21:18-22

- Is this enough for us?
- Jesus explicitly revealed to Peter that his death would be graphic and imposed upon him. Yet, he commands Peter to follow Him.

This must mean that the experience of following Jesus and the closeness of His presence supersedes the conflict that we are engaged in!

- Psalm 23:4; John 16:33; Psalm 34:18

Following Him must become our greater desire than the deliverance of our hardship. If it is reversed:

- Our frustration for healing has indeed become our idol before Christ.

3 - We must not live life offended at our situation or towards God.

Matthew 11:6; Mark 6:3, 5-6

- Offense magnifies an attitude of stubbornness and brings in a spirit of anti-receptivity.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Is it God's will to heal? Yes
His delay is always for a purpose!
Closeness with Jesus should supersede our wants.



Monthly Message Direction:

May 5 th	Jeremiah : Pit Stop!
May 12 th	Mother's day!
May 19 th	Jeremiah : Pit Crew!
May 26 th	Daniel : Pit Stop!

Date: May 5th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Jeremiah : Pit Stop.



Text: Psalm 103:4a; Jeremiah 38:1-16, 28

“Hardship is almost as common as breathing. The question is not if but when we will find ourselves in one of the painful pits of life.” Erik Raymond, Desiring God

1 - Being used of God does not mean exemption from the consequences of sinful life. It means fortitude through it! Verse 2

- Jeremiah speaks of famine, then he is thrown into a pit and is starved because of the famine.
- Should he have gone through that?

While we only see what is “fair” or “unfair”, God sees the entire storyline.

- The enemy’s plan for Jeremiah is for him to die. Verses 4-7

God preserves his life through difficulty, special relationships, and compassion in an uncompassionate world.

- We often miss little details of God meeting us in the hardness of life because we are too busy expecting God to move by our own standard. Verses 6, 11-12
- Why rags under his arms?

God is showing Jeremiah compassion in an evil world.

- We must recognize rags-for-our-armspit-moments!

We often assume that God's kindness is only about mighty deliverances.

- But we miss the lovingkindness of God through sustaining!
- We would rather have deliverance than sustaining.

What Under-Arm-Rags teach us:

- 1. God is concerned for the minute details of our suffering. Luke 8:55**

We are pointing to the whole situation as we see it (or lack of seeing it), and complaining to God all the while missing the details of our walk.

- God is meeting us in the minutia because He already knows the outcome of the situation.

- 2. God is gentle with His children! Verse 12**

The rags were for two reasons: comfort and padding-as-leverage to lift him up out of the thick mud.

- Matthew 11:29; Psalm 18:35

2 - God used the pit to separate Jeremiah from his enemies for a time when He could give him an exclusive moment with the king. Verse 14

- Interesting that Jeremiah goes from pit (verse 6) to holding room (verse 13) to the house of the LORD with the king (verse 14).
- God is promoting us!

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

Spend the next devotional time, evaluating the details in which you see God in. Praise Him for them. Cling to Him and bless vocally your situation!

Date: May 12th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Mother's Day!



Illustration - Introduction

Theologian Ilion Jones writes, “I ask you, who was greater, Thomas A. Edison or his mother? When he was a young lad his teacher sent him home with a note which said, ‘Your child is dumb. We can’t do anything for him.’ Mrs. Edison wrote back, “You do not understand my boy. I will teach him myself.’ And she did, with results that are well known.”

Thomas Edison’s first patent was at 21 years of age in 1868. In his career, he would obtain 1,093 US Patents, in addition to another 500 to 600 applications that he either didn’t finish or were rejected.

Some inventions by Thomas Edison

1 - Automatic Telegraph. The original telegraph had its drawbacks. An operator had to listen to incoming dots and dashes in Morse code, which slowed messages to a speed of 25 to 40 words per minute. The automatic telegraph receiver utilized a metal stylus to mark chemically-treated paper, which then could be run through a typewriter-like device. It was capable of recording up to 1,000 words a minute, which made it possible to send long messages quickly.

2 - The Phonograph. While developing his telephone transmitter, Edison got the idea of creating a machine that could record and play back telephone messages. That notion led him to imagine being able to record not just voices, but music and other sounds, by using sound to vibrate a diaphragm and push a stylus that made indentations on a cylinder covered with wax paper that was being turned by a crank.

3 - Movie Camera and Viewer. In the late 1880s, Edison supervised his lab's development of a technology "that does for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear." Most of the work on the Kinetograph, an early movie camera, and the Kinetoscope, a single-person peephole movie viewer

4 - Alkaline Storage Battery. Early electric cars had a big drawback—the batteries they used were heavy and tended to leak acid, which corroded the cars' interiors. Edison decided to take on the challenge of inventing a lighter, more dependable and more powerful battery. After conducting extensive research and the embarrassing flop of an early design, Edison came up with a reliable alkaline battery, and in 1910 began production of it.

5 - Cement. While attempting to develop his ore milling process to concentrate low-grade iron ore, Edison found that he could sell the waste sand to cement manufacturers. Edison Portland cement was used extensively for buildings, roads, dams, and other structures, including Yankee Stadium.

6 - Voice Recorder.

7 - Loud-Speaking Telephone Receiver.

8 - Electric Generator.

9 - The Electric Pen. Edison and his laboratory staff developed the electric pen and press during the summer and fall of 1875. The key feature of this copying system was the electric pen, one of the earliest consumer uses of an electric motor. This motor drove a small needle up and down the shaft of the pen, and as the user wrote, it created a stencil. By 1880, however, the electric pen business was in serious decline because it could no longer compete "against a field borne of its own seed" as a host of mechanical pens that did not require batteries came on the market. The electric pen had a second life in the 1890s when Samuel O'Reilly converted it into the first electric tattoo needle.

Date: May 12th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Mother's Day!



Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-8

Theologian Ilion Jones writes, “I ask you, who was greater, Thomas A. Edison or his mother? When he was a young lad his teacher sent him home with a note which said, ‘Your child is dumb. We can’t do anything for him.’ Mrs. Edison wrote back, “You do not understand my boy. I will teach him myself.’ And she did, with results that are well known.”

1 – She instills sincere and life building faith in the following generations. Verse 5

- The power in this verse comes from the fact that Timothy came to faith in a broken and difficult family.
- Acts 16:1

Instilling faith is a daily sacrifice and decision that heavily incorporates the living Word of God.

- 2 Timothy 3:15

We only reproduce one of 2 things spiritually:
Faith or fear - and their respective offspring.

- Faith - power - peace - blessing - favor.
- Fear - weakness - strife - curses - calamity.

2 – She becomes the spiritual opportunity maker. Verse 6

- Building faith in children allows for the opportunity for them to experience God’s manifest Presence.
- The more godly opportunities available, the greater the desire for God.

She brought Timothy to church to be under Paul's ministry.

3 – She dispels fear.

Verse 7a

- Paul was joining ranks with Timothy's mother and grandmother and attacking the greatest hindering spirit – FEAR!

Fear is multiplied through intake.

- Garbage in - Garbage out. Fear in - Fear out.
- Godly in - Godly out! Faith in - Faith out.

4 – She displays a spirit of power, love, and of a sound mind.

Verse 7b

- Power to encounter foes, power to bear up under trial, and power to triumph.
- Love towards God and love towards men.
1 John 4:18-21
- Sound mind which is well balanced and under the right influences.

5 – She lives faith completely unashamed no matter its cost.

Verse 8

- Participation with the gospel, no matter the hardship which manifests, returns to us more than the cost!



1 – Celebrate a godly mother by asking them to pray over your life. Receive the words of faith being spoken over you.

2 – Ask God to instill these qualities into your life.

3 – Speak a godly word over someone and encourage them to this church! Present them the opportunity to grow in faith.

Date: May 19th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Jeremiah : Pit-Crew.



Text: Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18

Being used by God, when others are in a pit - Lessons from Ebed-Melech.

“When people look to themselves, it creates frustration and an increased anxiety about survival. Yet, when people look to the needs of others, they see hope and experience a fulfilling purpose that actually sparks personal revival and regeneration.”

Ebed-Melech's name literally means:

- Servant (Ebed) of the King (Melech).
- He has no identity outside of this.
- All we know is that this servant of the king was an Ethiopian (not one of God's people) and a eunuch (castrated because of the king).

1 - Ebed-Melech took a risk to speak his view to the king. Jeremiah 38:9

- He spoke out against wickedness regardless of the outcome.
- He was a big-picture man.

He spoke out against the wickedness inside the palace because of the greater destruction Jerusalem was facing.

- We often remain silent because we will not look to what God says will happen, because of our comfortable treaty with wickedness.

2 - Ebed-Melech was obedient to this small prompting to speak. Jeremiah 38:7-8

- It was a small but important-in-the-moment prompting.

- We can only ever “see” in the moment.

Our response, in our own eyes, only seems singular and momentary and isolated.

Yet, God prompted Ebed-Melech to respond not only for Jeremiah; but because his obedience to respond in Jeremiah’s difficulty would result in His own deliverance by the goodness of God.

Jeremiah 39:15-18

3 - Obedience is not only for now! It is a set-up for later!

Jeremiah 39:17-18

- Because Ebed-Melech was obedient to act in someone else’s life, it proved He trusted God with his own.
- Ebed-Melech also had fears and issues that he faced in life (verse 17b).

His trust in God produced for him 5-fold.

1. I will deliver you on that day.
2. You will not be given to those whom you dread.
3. I will certainly rescue you.
4. You will not fall by the sword.
5. You will have your own life as booty.

Because of their disobedience, God was speaking to Israel collectively about judgment.

- Because of his obedience, God spoke to Ebed-Melech singularly and personally.

We can have peace and security in the midst chaos and judgment.

⇐ **LIVE it OUT** ⇒

Simply do for someone else this week without the impeding thought, “*I don’t feel like it*” or “*There is too much happening in my own life.*” Learn obedience to the gospel by acting sacrificially and then receiving God’s power.

Date: May 26th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Daniel : Pit-Stop.



Text: Daniel 6:1-5

“We must become extraordinary in heart and not place all the emphasis on our walls. When temptation comes, when sin comes, it comes against the heart, not the walls.”

➤ **Learning from the Great wall of China.**

There are aspects of Daniel we must notice that are concrete before we are bombarded by his circumstances.

1 - Daniel possessed an extraordinary spirit.

Verse 3b

Daniels's extraordinary spirit was developed through choices.

1. He chose morality. Daniel 1:8
2. He chose Spiritual Discipline. Daniel 6:10
3. He chose discretion and discernment over vindication and self-advancement.

Daniel 2:14

2 - The king had planned to promote Daniel.

Verse 3c

- This very idea is true of our own lives. The intention of God towards Believers is to promote them.
- We must accept this fact before we face difficulty.

Romans 4:19-21 - Abraham teaches this!

- We must accept God's spoken blessings before we ever receive them.

The pit in Daniel's life came as a result of God's intention to promote.

1. God's intentions are never disrupted by attacks against it.
2. God's intentions to promote are greater than the enemy's intentions to disrupt.
3. If God speaks promotion over us, any disruption will always result in miracles and favor in the "enduring" process.

3 - Daniel was distinguishing himself among those in his circle. Verse 3a

- There is a big difference between "fitting-in" and distinguishing ourselves.
- Godly distinction will always cause worldly friction, but spiritual fervor.

In our attempt to emulate these characteristics that are seen in Daniel, we must strive in the placement of Spirit over Flesh.

- Daniel was, and we should be, a man/woman of purpose.
- Daniel was, and we should be, a man/woman of prayer.
- Daniel was, and we should be, a man/woman of perception.
- Daniel was, and we should be, a man/woman of power.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Spiritual discipline and spiritual motivated choices prepare us for seasons in the pit. The make the pit much smaller and God infinitely greater.



Monthly Message Direction:

June 2nd Daniel : Pit Stop! Part 2

June 9th Daniel : Pit Stop! Part 3

June 16th Father's Day!

June 23rd Daniel : Pit Stop! Part 4

June 30th Daniel : Pit Stop! Part 5

Date: June 2nd, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Daniel : Pit-Stop.
Part 2



Text: Daniel 6:4-11

“Mature Christians know that unless they plan to pray, it will not happen...failure to establish good spiritual habits will lead to poor spiritual health. Plan to pray!”
David Egner

The disciplines of the Christian life literally wage war on our behalf.

1 - There was no ground of accusation found in Daniel. **Verse 4b**

- His accusers were specifically looking at Daniel's work-related responsibilities.
(verse 4a)

It is incredible that the testing of our Christian character comes not so often in the church, but in the confines of secular productivity.

Who we are when the outside world presses all of our buttons, determines what and how we receive when difficulty arises.

2 - Daniel was faithful. **Verse 4c**

- There was no negligence or corruption in him.

Negligence implying unintended oversight.
Corruption implying purposed fraud.

The faithfulness of Daniel towards God, met him in any oversight and protected his heart from intentional corruption.

Daniel was able to withstand condemning mistakes and the temptation of corruption because...

3 - He continued kneeling three times a day.

Verse 10c

- This is vitally important!

Daniel just had devastating news (verse 10a), yet, he did not stop discipline!

Continuing in spiritual discipline when our situations start to revolt, lays the groundwork for an uninterrupted fellowship with God and a continued uninterrupted access to His power.

This is the whole point of spiritual discipline:

- Power becomes uninterrupted!

Daniel practiced a power-filled mix:

- Prayer and thanksgiving. Verse 10d
- What was Daniel thankful for?
- The ability to connect with God.

The power in verse 10, is the two bookend:

1. He continued...
2. As he had been doing...

Can this be said of our own life?



The only way to live out this message is to make a specific plan in your schedule to pray. When will it be? Commit to it and write it down. I will have purposed prayer every day at:_____.

Date: June 9th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Daniel : Pit-Stop.
Part 3



Text: Daniel 6:10-17

"Pray against a thirst for light and trifling reading, that strange and sinful inconsistency of so many, the certain tendency of which is to starve the life of God in the soul, to engender a distaste for spiritual nourishment, for the Word of God, for holy meditation, and for Divine communion and fellowship."

Octavius Winslow

1 - The most important point to note is that it is not what Daniel did in the pit that brought about this mighty deliverance. It is what Daniel had done before the pit. Verse 10c

Consistency must be stressed in our life!

- We must break the pattern of emotionally led decision making in regard to our relationship with Christ.

Galatians 5:17, 19-21 - These are feeling-motivated triggers.

Galatians 5:22-24 - These are disciplined and anti-flesh-feeling based. They are only actualized by the determined crucifixion of our flesh in a daily habit.

Luke 9:23-25

Our consistency will always bring our comeback!

2 - It is so important to listen and take to heart the declaration from God. Verse 16b

- This unbeliever of a king gave Daniel the only word he needed to hear and meditate on while enduring through the pit experience.

What do we hear when we go into the pit?

- What do we meditate on? The Word of God or the lions? The Word of God or Google's summary of how hopeless the situation is?

We must make sure again that we take note of what the king said to Daniel.

- The king told Daniel that God would deliver him because Daniel was consistent.

3 - When the enemy says that our situation is final...it really isn't! Verse 17

- *"...so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel."*
- John 8:44

How to develop consistency like Daniel:

1. **We must continually know and remind ourselves that we do not belong to the system that we are in.** Daniel was not from the Medes or Persians. He was from Israel. Therefore every decision he made, stemmed from that reality. He did not conform to the image of his current society.
 2. **We must prioritize our day!** Daniel chose that time with God was more important than even his own life. Therefore he made his relationship with time obedient to his schedule.
 3. **We must incorporate thankfulness into our regiment of time with God.** If we are only concerned with our need, we miss entirely the work that God is currently doing. Thankfulness opens godly perspective.
-

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Choose consistency. Break the stagnant habit of mediocrity and step out in an action of faith!

Date: June 16th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Father's Day!



Text: Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:5-14, 22

“Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand.”
-Augustine

1 – Noah activated his faith by being sensitive to the warning of God about the things to come.

Hebrews 11:7a

- We must always strive to live life for that which God plans ahead of us.

It is easy to misalign ourselves and live according to the misleading feelings of the present moment.

- WE MUST LIVE FOR ETERNITY!

This is one reason why the current uprising in our country is wreaking havoc. It wants us to focus on the feeling of the moment.

- We must make our decisions based on the coming reality, not the present deception.

Living for eternity is living for the Presence of God! Moses teaches this by his faith progression.

- What matters more? Our current issue or the active presence of Jesus?
- Moses in immaturity wanted more signs than Presence: Exodus 3:10-13; 4:1, 10-13, 15
- Moses in maturity wanted more presence and less signs: Exodus 33:1-3, 11, 13-15

2 – The difficulty of faith is not whether we believe in the power of God, but in our manifestation of it while a corrupt world watches and condemns that expression of faith.

Hebrews 11:7b

- Noah was obedient by building the ark (something strange and foreign considering the times).

By doing this, he condemned the world, better yet, he clashed with the world.

It has been said that the church is to “*shape the culture of society*”. Yet, the Bible cries out to separate from society.

3 – Faith will regard reverence to the Lord as priority to personal comfort. Hebrews 11:7b

- The word used for *reverence* is the Greek word *eulabeomai* and holds the idea of cautiousness and fear.

Noah’s fear of God was greater than the fear of man. Greater than the fear of:

1. Fitting in.
2. Being accepted.
3. Offending others.
4. Being bullied into societal norms.

⇐LIVE IT OUT⇒

1 – Let YOUR faith in Christ dictate the decisions you make rather than letting emotions pull you towards shame. Choose Presence over everything else.

Date: June 23rd, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Daniel : Pit-Stop.
Part 4



Text: Daniel 6:17-23

“Where are the marks of the cross in your life? Are there any points of identification with your Lord? Alas, too many Christians wear medals but carry no scars.” Vance Havner

What Daniel must have thought about while in the pit is revealed by his own confession:

1 - Daniel was more concerned, while in the pit, of his walk with God and not his outcome.

Verse 22b

While Daniel was in the pit, there must have been an incredible experience of a supernatural court.

- Daniel was accused by the devil.
- God declared him innocent.

2 - Daniel's personal experience with God allowed him to make a spiritual declaration - "My God!"

Verse 22a

- God sent His angel, not to remove or kill the lions, but to hold their mouth shut.

We must not think in human size. This was supernatural. God sent one angel to hold closed the mouths of many lions.

- We must think kittens in a giants hands.
- 2 Kings 6:16

3 - Daniel's victory and deliverance was found only through his trust in God.

Verse 23

Daniel's trust in God produced:

1. Deliverance. (Ultimately) Verse 23a
2. Protection through the pit experience. No injury whatever! Verse 23b
3. Supernatural/angelic experience. We are surrounded and cared for, numerically more, by God's angels than from the devils demons. Verse 22a; Psalm 91:11-12; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 34:7
4. A defiant reversal of what the enemy initiated! The enemy had to watch Daniel get lifted out of the pit. Verse 23a

The enemy's plan over Daniel was utterly embarrassed.

1. The enemy first gave their own orders. Now they had to listen to the king give orders. Verse 23a
2. The enemy put Daniel in the pit, now watched as he was raised from their pit. Verse 23b
3. The enemy condemned Daniel. But the King condemns the enemy. Verse 24a
4. The enemy wanted Daniel destroyed. The king has the enemy destroyed by generations. Verse 24b

The truth of every pit experience is this: God will always be exalted and glorified (Verse 26a) and we will always receive good from the Hand of God (Verse 28).

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇐

Embrace the pit experience. Embrace the Presence of Jesus standing with you! Thank Him for the nearness of His presence despite the depth of your pit.

Date: June 30th, 2024
Speaker: Nikki Baybay
Sermon Title: Daniel : Pit-Stop.
Part 5



Text: Daniel 6:24-28

Our pit-experience is always firstly for the glory of God!

Because of Daniels's pit experience, a new decree went out in the current culture, magnifying God and inviting people to experience these amazing attributes:

1 - He is the Living God and enduring forever.
Verse 26b

2 - His Kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.
Verse 26c

3 - His dominion will be forever. **Verse 26d**

4 - He delivers and rescues.

Verse 27a

5 - He performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.

Verse 27b

- God will always move situations that affect more than our own lives; for His glory and our benefit.

6 - He delivers from any earthly manifested power.

Verse 27c-28

- The power of the lions was broken and blocked.
- Because of the **PIT**, Daniel enjoyed success.



How He Crowns Us With
Lovingkindness and Compassion



july

2024
The Year of God's Benefit

Monthly Message Direction:

July 7 th	The Place of the Crown.
July 14 th	The Imperishable Crown.
July 21 st	The Crown of Righteousness.
July 28 th	The Crown of Life.

Date: July 7th, 2024
Speaker: Ema Gavidia
Sermon Title: The Place of the Crown! Bema Seat.



Text: Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10;
Psalm 103:4b

Right after the rapture of the Church, every Believer will have an appointment with the Judgment of God.

- We will not be judged for our sin!

The *Bema Seat*. The Greek word *Bema* describes a *raised platform where judges would sit to scrutinize contestants*.

1 - We will all be judged for our deeds done while in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 5:10b

- The judgment seat of Christ will be a place where rewards will be given or lost depending on how one has used his or her life for the Lord.

This is so important in regards to the structure we will have in heaven.

- We often think that in heaven we will just aimlessly roam around. Yet, there are positions and placements in heaven. We will receive different rewards and different crowns at the Bema Seat.

2 - Good and bad constitutes our motives.

2 Corinthians 5:10b

- When we appear before the *Bema* it is our motive in which we served the Lord that is evaluated.

- What is our motive? Is it self-advancement, self-vindicating, or is it simply out of love for Jesus?

How to Develop a Christ-Minded Motive:

Psalm 139:23-24

1. Pray. *Search me!* Verse 23a
 - Ask God for pure motives.
2. Listen to the Holy Spirit's inventory of our life. *Know my heart.* Verse 23b
 - Allow God to enter to into our closed doors.
3. Ask God for situations that reveal our motives. *Try me.* Verse 23c
 - This s so hard to pray. Reveal and bring to light my wrong motives O God.
4. Release to God any pride. *See if there is any hurtful way in me.* Verse 24a
 - Pride of hurting others and pride of holding on to hurt!
5. Be willing to be led. *Lead me in the everlasting way.* Verse 24b
 - This is a gentle spirit. Can we accept being

in Acts 18:12-17



Date: July 14th, 2024
Speaker: Ema Gavidia
Sermon Title: The Imperishable Crown!



Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“Winning is not everything, it is the only thing.”
Vince Lombardi, coach Green Bay Packers.

This crown is reserved for those who do not disqualify themselves by living in a way that negates the power of grace to overcome desires, temptations, or habits that try to rule them.

1 - The Imperishable Crown is built upon self-control. 1 Corinthians 9:25a

- Self-control is the culmination of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24.

Self-control is the crucifixion of the flesh.

- Galatians 5:24

How do we crucify our flesh?

- 1. Run with a goal in mind. 1 Cor. 9:26**
 - We must have frequent check-ins to see our progress..
- 2. Discipline the body. 1 Cor. 9:27**
 - It is interesting that it does not say to discipline the “spirit.” Why?

Matthew 26:40-41

- The Spirit is willing! It is the flesh, the body that must be moved into alignment.
- The body is what must become disciplined.

Romans 12:1

- The discipline of the body is the spiritual service of worship.

- When we take that which is flesh and submit it to God, we then are worshipping with body and spirit.

As we discipline the body for the sake of the Spirit, we not only solidify our reception of the imperishable crown, but we end up *walking by the Spirit* (Galatians 5:25) which adjusts our motives for the Bema Seat!

2 - The Imperishable Crown becomes the mark over our life that declares what race we are running.

1 Corinthians 9:25

- *Competes in the games.*
- These “World” games were known as the Isthmian Games. They were similar to the Olympic Games and took place every two years near Corinth.

In the Olympic games, there was always a prize of gold, silver, or bronze medals. In the Isthmian Games, there was only one crown to be won.

- In some of the competitions, the winner won because the competition died trying.

We are in the great Isthmian Games of our lives:

1. If we are not in shape, we die.
2. If we are not specific in what we do, we lose.
3. If we do not have a goal in mind, we forfeit to someone that does.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

What is your goal in running this life with Christ?

Write it down: _____

Make strides in your race with Jesus.

Date: July 21st, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Crown of Righteousness!



Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

“Don’t ignore the physical danger of busyness. Just remember the most serious threats are spiritual. When we are crazy busy, we put our souls at risk. The challenge is not merely to make a few bad habits go away. The challenge is not to let our spiritual lives slip away.” Kevin DeYoung

This crown is specifically given to those who eagerly await the return of Christ. Verse 8b

1 - To love the appearing of the Lord is to live in light of it. Verse 8c

- We must live in the light of His appearing.
- This does not mean that we might not experience death.

Living in light of His appearing holds the idea that His appearing is the focus of our life.

2 - Living, as loving His appearing, is to live prepared. Matthew 25:1-10

- Why didn’t the foolish virgins bring oil?
- They did not believe the bridegroom was really coming.

What do we learn from these foolish virgins?

- A. When the day of His appearing comes, we will have no time to reconcile.

B. Unpreparedness is no excuse. The time of preparation is now!

3 - Living, as loving His appearing, is to live understanding the times.

Matthew 24:37-39

- We, as Believers must recognize the times before the return so we don't get caught off guard and then recognize the times when it is too late.

Everyone on earth will recognize the return of Christ.

- True Believers will recognize it beforehand and change their life. Transform it. (Romans 12:2).

The transformation is accepted because the reality of eternity is greater than the short-lived pleasure of a finite world.

- Unbelievers will recognize it after it happens (Matthew 24:39), because self-pleasure was greater than pleasing Christ.

None of the things listed in Matthew 24:38 were wrong. (Eating, drinking, marrying) It is just that these things became greater than Christ.

- Notice that Matthew doesn't list sins. He lists everyday things that become greater than responding to Jesus.

4 - Living, as loving His appearing, is to live expectant in defense. Matthew 24:42-44

- Living in defense against a burglar is preparing our home on every weak front.

We must spend the effort and time to make sure we are always ready.

- God's Word makes us ready.
- Prayer makes us ready.
- Church makes us ready.

5 - Living, as loving His appearing, is to live faithful to feeding His Church.

Matthew 24:45-47

- This is about serving the Church of Christ.
- The more we serve, the more we love, and the more our eyes are on Christ.

Non-participation through the Church leads a Believer to:

Matthew 24:48-51

- A. Animosity towards those in the household of God. Verse 49a
- B. Fellowship / Conformity with those outside of the people of God. Verse 49b
- C. A spirit of disbelief and non-acceptance toward God's Word. Verses 48, 50
- D. A condemning judgment and separation from God. Verse 51

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

The greatest attack against preparedness is conformity.

- DO NOT CONFORM TO THIS WORLD!

Conformity is broken through righteousness.

Righteousness is proven through action.

What action is the Holy Spirit convicting me to do, so that I can live ready? _____

Date: July 28th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Crown of Life!



Illustration:

Opening Quote by Horatius Bonar.

He married Jane Catherine Lundie in 1843 and five of their (nine) young children died in succession.

- Towards the end of their lives, one of their surviving daughters was left a widow with five small children and she returned to live with her parents.

His Children:

1. Mary Lundie, born 14 June 1844
2. James, born 25 May, died 19 July 1847
(2 months old)
3. Marjory Emily Jane, born 29 August 1849,
died 28 June 1850 (10 months old)
4. Christian Cornelia, born 10 October 1852,
died 17 July 1869 (17 years old)
5. Lucy Jane, born 22 September 1854, died 20
August 1858 (4 years old)
6. Eliza Maitland, born 10 September 1857
7. Horatius Ninian, born 2 April 1860
8. Emily Florence, born 26 December 1861
9. Henry Robert, born 17 December 1865, died
26 March 1869. (4 years old)

He lost 5 of his 9 children in these years.

July 1847, August 1850, August 1858,
March 1869, October 1869.

Date: July 28th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Crown of Life!



Text: Revelation 2:9-10; James 1:12

“The road is rugged, and the sun is hot. How can we be but weary? Here is grace for the weariness - grace which lifts us up and invigorates us; grace which keeps us from fainting by the way; grace which supplies us with manna from heaven, and with water from the smitten rock. We receive of this grace, and are revived. Our weariness of hear and limb departs. We need no other refreshment. This is enough. Whatever the way be - rough, gloomy, unpleasant - we press forward, knowing that the same grace that has already carried thousands through will do the same for us.”

Horatius Bonar 1868

We must remember that crowns are rewards. The crown of life is not eternal life. It is a reward for those who persevere in faith through temptation, tribulations, and persecutions.

If we are persecuted, we are blessed.

- Matthew 5:11-12
- “For great is our reward.”

The crown of life is a great reward.

- James 1:2 - This is why James says to consider various trials as joy!
- This crown must be so special.

1 - The crown of life is specific to perseverance in situations that attack our view/relationship with Christ.

James 1:9-15

- If we ever feel the temptation to reject what we stand for, the crown of life is at stake.

The perseverance of “something” gives us a glimpse into the “reward” of this crown.

There are two book ends with James 1:12 in the middle.

1. Perseverance through frustration of economics.
2. Perseverance through temptations of inner luring sin.

The crown of life brings a special fulfillment in:

1. Economics for pleasure.
2. Inner fulfillment.

2 - The crown of life is specific to those who are enduring difficult situations for the sake of serving Christ.

Revelation 2:9

- They seem poor, but they are really rich,
- Hebrews 13:5-6

Sometimes in this life we may make decisions that affect us economically for the sake of Christ.

- That is ok!
- The crown of life is ours.

If the contrast is poverty of economics and material prosperity in this life, the crown of life must have strong economic value in our eternal life experience.

3 - The crown of life is specific to those who suffer persecution. Revelation 2:10

- They pray for release from what they are facing, but are not released.
- The crown of life is theirs.

The crown of life is bigger than our physical life experience.

- We think that rewards received in heaven are small in comparison with a reward received in this life. Yet, the rewards that Jesus promises, are greater than the greatest expression of joy - our very life.
- Jesus says in Revelation 2:10, their very lives do not compare with the reward they will receive in the crown of life.
- Remember, eternal life is not this crown and is already received by those who receive Christ.
- Therefore, the crown of life is so mighty that we cannot even comprehend its reception.
- God will not be giving us a gold medal or star. His crowns are more valuable than even our physical lives.

“The road to the Kingdom is not so pleasant, and comfortable, and easy, and flowery, as many dream. It is not a bright sunny avenue of palms. It is not paved with triumph, though it is to end in victory. The termination is glory, honor, and immortality; but on the way, there is the thorn in the flesh, the sackcloth, and the cross. Recompense later; but labor here! Rest later; but weariness here! Joy and security later; but here endurance and watchfulness - the race, the battle, the burden, the stumbling block, and oftentimes the heavy heart.” Horatius Bonar 1873

Receiving the Crown of Life:

The more we strive to live life *for* Christ and not for ourselves, the pursuit of what we want drastically changes.

- We begin to want what He wants.
- We begin to live for Him, which produces life in Him, which fills us with manifest power through Him.

The key is exactly that!

1. We want what He wants.
2. We live for Him.
3. We then see and actualize life in Him.
4. We are filled with active power through Him.



Ponder the words of this Hymn by Horatius Bonar:
A Few More Years Shall Roll (1844)

A few more storms shall beat; on this wild rocky shore,
And we shall be where tempests cease,
And surges swell no more;
Then, O my Lord, prepare; my soul for that calm day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood; and take my sins away.

A few more struggles here; a few more partings o'er,
A few more toils, a few more tears,
And we shall weep no more,
Then, O my Lord prepare; My soul for that bright day.
O wash me in Thy precious blood; and take my sins away.

How He Crowns Us With
Lovingkindness and Compassion



august

2024
The Year of God's Benefit

Monthly Message Direction:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 4 th | The Crown of Exultation. |
| August 11 th | The Crown of Glory. |
| August 18 th | Reigning with Christ! |
| August 25 th | Casting Crowns. |

Date: August 4th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: The Crown of
Exultation!



Text: Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

“The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.”
Carl F. H. Henry

This is the crown of rejoicing or the soul-winners crown. (Matthew 9:36-38; Proverbs 11:30)

1 - We win souls when we see them as distressed and dispirited. Matthew 9:36

- *Distressed* is the Greek word *skullo* and means *to skin, flay, or mangle*.
- *Dispirited* is the Greek word *rhipto* and means *to throw to the ground, or cast away*.

We often do not see people in this way. What we see is the manifestation of their distress and despair - which is offensive, distasteful to us, and highly frictional to our own ways.

The greatest block to seeing people as Christ sees them is our frustration with them.

- Frustration blocks the love of Jesus.

According to psychologists, frustration sets in, in the following situations:

1. Lack of control. The biggest factor to frustration is often our inability to control a bad situation.
2. Injustice. Other people or other situations are causing us grief.

“The spirit of frustration comes straight from the enemy. When we give in to demonic pressure, we allow the devil to take a hold of valuable ground in our hearts and lives.” Angela G. nolongerlukewarm.com

Breaking the uprising of frustration.

1. Repent. Even when we are in the right and the frustrating person is in the wrong.
Repentance does not make us be the one that was wrong. Repentance breaks the attachment of spiritual strongholds.
2. Reclaim. Reclaim the frustrating person.
Pray and declare over them that they will be part of the harvest and that God soften their hearts.

2 - We win souls when we pray to be used and then act upon it. Matthew 9:38

- The key is: Workers in the Harvest.
- This is where we begin the fruitful work of reclaiming people instead of rejecting them.

Reclaiming speaks life. Rejecting curses life.
Reclaiming acts selflessly to redeem. Rejecting is self-serving for vindication.

3 - This crown will be presented to us as the individuals who stand before the Lord because of our work. 1 Thessalonians 2:19

- A crown of souls.

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Church, I exhort you to win one!

- Be specific. Be intentional. Be bold!
- Reach one!

Date: August 11th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Crown of Glory!



Text: 1 Peter 5:1-4

This crown is given to those who shepherd the flock / church. While this is a crown that is given to Pastors and Elders, it is a crown that is readily available to the church, but is rarely taken.

Remember, our positions and responsibilities during the millennial reign, come from the judgment seat. Hebrews 5:12, 14

- “By this time, you ought to have been teachers...”

1 - Choose maturity through the practice of discerning good and evil. Hebrews 5:14

2 - Choose voluntarily to lead in the church!
1 Peter 5:2

- Stop waiting and wasting maturity!
- There is a place of shepherding for you!
- It just might be starting a small group in our homes...

3 - Choose to lead without the expectation of recognition. 1 Peter 5:2b

- Let the crown of exultation and the crown of glory be the motivation for reward.

4 - Choose to let our life be an outward example for the church. 1 Peter 5:3

- We resist having the power of God flow to every area of our life because we reject the idea of transparency and usability!

Can 1 Corinthians 11:1 be our declaration?



Lead, Lead, Lead, and Lead.

Start something for the glory of God.

Date: August 18th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Reigning with Christ!



Text: 2 Timothy 2:11-12

“How great an honor will it be to a person to have God at the day of judgment owning a person, declaring before all men, angels and devils that, that person is before His all-seeing eyes and that he stands innocent and perfect in His sight, clothed with perfect righteousness and entitled to everlasting glory and blessedness. How honorable will this render them in the eyes of all that vast assembly that will be together at the day of judgment. That will be an infinitely greater honor than any man or any angel declaring that they judge him upright and sincere and that eternal life belongs to him. What can be a greater honor than this - to be owned by the great King and Lord of all things?”

Jonathan Edwards

1 - The consequence of our redemption is the accomplishment of what we were created for.

Verse 12b

- We were made to rule and reign with Jesus.

God made us to have dominion over creation and rule it for His glory. Genesis 1:26-31

- We forfeited this ability through Adam. But through Christ, we are restored to our original purpose.
- Romans 5:12-21; Key verse 17
- Ephesians 2:1-7 Key verse 7

We cannot forget that we were created to live and function as conquerors. Just because sin disrupts this premise, does not mean it is not ours!

2 - We will not live eternity mindlessly and without purpose.

Daniel 7:27; Matthew 25:20-21

We will receive in eternity:

1. Sovereignty, - Meaning the entire Kingdom and the dominion of that Kingdom.
2. Dominion, Specifically the ruling and leading of it.
3. Greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole of heaven. - The entire realm.
4. Be in charge of many things...

There will be more purpose in heaven than there is in this world. This world is finite. Our purpose is redemption through Jesus. Once we are restored to eternity, our purpose becomes:

- Greater,
- Filled with power,
- Undeified,
- Powered by love in its truest expression, and
- Eternally active and enduring.

3 - We were created for kingship. We are only preparing for it here in this life.

Revelation 19:11-16; Key verse 14

- Our eyes focused on Jesus, prepare us for our eternal reward.



Live as a conqueror. Desire Jesus. Keep your eyes on Him this week. Let Him be the focus of what you do. You will rise to the status of conqueror without any effort.

Date: August 25th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Casting Crowns!



Text: Revelation 4:9-11

We must realize that our reward can never be taken from us. The symbol of our reward will be cast at the feet of Jesus.

1 - Jesus alone is and will be our reward! Only Jesus is worthy. Revelation 5:2-5

- What incredible advice from the angel in this verse.

Stop weeping. Revelation 5:5b

- Behold the Lion...ultimate judgment against every evil and sinful attack in this world is only through Jesus. Our eyes must be on Him.

The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. Revelation 5:5c

- These phrases represent the culmination of prophetic history for the Jews.
- Jesus is the build up from history past and the answer for the future to come.

Has overcome... Revelation 5:5d

- Only Jesus possesses the power of judgment.

2 - Our eyes must continually be set upon Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2

How do we fix our eyes upon Jesus?

1. Lay aside every encumbrance and sin.

Encumbrance is the Greek word *euperistatos* and describes *what is currently surrounding or encircling a person. It is a serious hindrance that hampers someone who desperately needs to advance.*

Sin is the Greek word *hamartia* and it describes *the brand of sin that emphasizes its self-originated or self-empowered nature. It is not originated or empowered by God.*

We must lay aside the situation that is keeping us bound. Move past the hindrance.

The question always arises - how?

2. Study the Word of God. We must read it and dwell on it until we receive direction.

If we don't receive direction our flesh is louder than our desire to change.

3. We must guard our inputs. Proverbs 4:20-22 This verse emphasizes the power received through our focus, ears, eyes, heart, and ultimately the health of our bodies.

4. We must watch our words. Luke 6:45

5. We must invest in godly friendships. We must cultivate these relationships with our time.

Our eyes and focus on Jesus, will always produce for us. Psalm 119:6; 119:15; 141:8; 2 Cor. 4:18

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Spend a moment of time worshipping Jesus this week. Not for your need, but for His glory.



Monthly Message Direction:

September 8 th	Hearing Satisfaction.
September 15 th	Open Doors of Dissatisfaction!
September 22 nd	Pastor Adams (Malawi).
The Fruit of Satisfaction (Part 1); Online (Broadcast live from Hawaii Missions)	
September 29 th	The Fruit of Satisfaction (Part 2)

Date: September 8th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Hearing
Satisfaction!



Text: Psalm 103:5a; Exodus 14:1-4, 8-15

“Our underlying problem is a deep desire not to find our satisfaction in God’s greatness, but our own.” - John Piper

“The passionate pursuit of true, deep and lasting satisfaction always leads to Jesus.” - David Platt

“We are all searching for satisfaction and we will never find it until we seek and savor the Lord. Our heart demands an infinite satisfaction which can be supplied only by an infinite person.” - Randy Smith

Israel only wanted to be satisfied. They were never satisfied in bondage. At this point, they were learning to make decisions of trust to experience satisfaction.

Voices come at pivotal moments of trust.

- Satisfaction never comes by a situation changing for us! It comes in the midst of our situation when the right choice is made.

Three voices in the midst of choosing satisfaction:

1 - The first voice we must battle is our own!

Verses 11-12

- This is the most dangerous voice. Because it comes from within. Our logic says it is true.

What our own voice proposes:

A. My life will end. Verse 11b

B. Why is God and every person in my situation against me. Verse 11

C. My bondage is too strong and I feel safer in it. Verse 12a

D. It is better to stay in misery than face the hurt
inside to get out! Verse 12b

This is very often the voice we listen to and cling
to the most.

2 - The second voice we must battle is that of those near to us. Verses 13-14

- This voice is a good voice. Even a pastoral
type of voice.

While this voice was good, the people still did
nothing and they did not take any responsibility or
put forth any effort to progress.

- The word was encouraging but it lacked
personal action in faith.

The good words of this voice can hinder us if it
causes encouragement but not action.

3 - The third voice we must battle with is that of God's voice. Verse 15

- The reason we must battle with it is because
it commands us to move forward!

When we move forward we inescapably encounter:

- A. Barriers in front of us.
- B. Opposition behind us.
- C. A sense of confusion within.

Yet, our eyes must be upon:

- A. God's voice and command, (v.15)
 - B. His Presence which He never removed, (v.19)
 - C. God's honor over our feelings. (v.18)
-

⇐ **LIVE it OUT** ⇒

Our satisfaction comes when we stop crying about
our situation and actually move forward in faith.

Take active steps and receive satisfaction from Jesus.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." Ps. 34:8

Date: Sept. 15th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Open Doors of
Dissatisfaction!



Illustration for Point # 4

Stress can have real, physical effects on the body — and it can even make you sick. Learning how to identify and manage your stress can help you feel better and can also improve your physical health.

Can stress make you sick?

Yes, when stress is ongoing and chronic, it can lead to stress-related illness.

What can cause stress?

Both emotional and physical stress cause changes to your body that can damage your health in the long run.

12 types of stress-related illnesses

1. Broken heart syndrome (Takotsubo syndrome)

Severe stress can lead to sudden, temporary weakening of the heart and its ability to pump well. Researchers think this type of heart failure is related to increased levels of stress hormones, like epinephrine and norepinephrine.

But it can also lead to serious complications, including sudden death.

2. Stress-induced ischemia to the heart

Stress can lead to chest pain, and it can even decrease blood flow to the heart, resulting in a heart attack or ischemia.

In general, women are more at risk of heart problems from psychological stress than men are.

3. High blood pressure

Chronic stress can increase stress hormones, like cortisol and adrenaline. Over time, this raises your blood pressure and increases your risk for heart disease.

4. Stress-induced hyperglycemia (high blood sugar)

The release of stress hormones, like epinephrine and cortisol, can also increase blood glucose levels.

5. Stress-induced insomnia

Stress can lead to disruptions in sleep and stress-related insomnia.

6. Stress-induced anxiety

Anxiety can be the result of long-standing stress.

This may cause a variety of symptoms like:

- Palpitations
- Chest pressure
- Insomnia
- Dry mouth

7. Stress-induced depression

Acute and ongoing stress can lead to mood changes, including depression.

8. Stress-induced pain

Stress and anxiety change the way you feel pain. The nature, time, and intensity of the stress all play a role. Stress, fear, and anxiety all have strong, complex influences on pain.

Studies show that people with chronic stress actually experience changes in how they process pain, causing them to feel more pain than they otherwise would.

9. Stress-induced inflammation

Stress can lead to increased inflammation levels. Experts know that signs of inflammation in the blood increase with stress.

It can also cause symptoms in the short term, such as hives, pain, or fatigue.

10. Stress-induced nausea and diarrhea

Stress causes many gut issues, including nausea, heartburn, and diarrhea. Experts know the brain and gut are linked (the brain-gut axis). Stress-related gut symptoms have to do with the release of hormones — like cortisol and adrenaline — and the change in blood flow away from your digestive tract. This slows down digestion and can make food harder to absorb.

11. Stress-induced infections

The relationship between stress and your immune system has been known for at least 100 years. In the early 1900s, Japanese doctors noted that patients with chronic stress didn't heal from tuberculosis as well as patients who didn't have stress in their lives. Since then, we've learned a lot about how chronic stress can weaken your immune system. And this can increase your risk of infections — from the common cold to cold sores.

12. Irregular or painful periods

Stress can also affect hormones that regulate your reproductive system and your menstrual period. This can lead to irregular and painful periods. It can even make your periods stop all together (amenorrhea). Usually, these symptoms improve once the stress is removed from your life.

How to reduce stress and treat stress-related illness

Learning to reduce stress can help prevent chronic stress and treat the symptoms of stress-related diseases. Here are a few science-backed recommendations to get you started:

- Practice deep breathing and mindfulness.
(It is interesting to note that the very first method has to do with meditation...we cannot escape God for health in our bodies.)
- Exercise every day.
- Get outside and spend time in nature if you have access to it.
- Spend time with animals — either your own or in a volunteer setting.
- Eat a nourishing diet, and avoid processed foods and alcohol.

By Doctors:

- Christina Palmer, MD
- Farzon A. Nahvi, MD

From goodrx.com

Date: Sept. 15th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Open Doors of
Dissatisfaction!



Text: Exodus 14:31; 15:22-27

“Dissatisfaction is like an ulcer that gnaws away at our sense of gratitude, our peace of mind, and our enjoyment of life.”
Vickie Kraft

“Discontentment is an emotion that is capable of dwarfing us spiritually because it is directed against the Lord.”
Vickie Kraft

1 - Dissatisfaction comes in when our focus is on what we lack. Verses 22-24

- Our current lack tells us to disregard what God has previously done and to feel dissatisfied because God is not capable of meeting a basic need!
- Not to forget that the Israelites were only three days out from the miracle of crossing the Red Sea.

If we are not satisfied with God first, we will never be satisfied with the events of our life.

- Deeper, was the fact that Israel was not satisfied with God. Only with what He could provide at this point.

2 - Our lack is ALWAYS an opportunity to grow in our trust towards God. Verse 25b

- There He tested them.
- Their lack didn't mean God did not care.

Our lack is always the preparatory ground of deeper and better fulfillment.

They complained at Marah and got to drink purified water while God's perfect plan of trust entailed Elim...Spring water and food. Verse 27

- Purified water is good. Spring water is better!

Elim was less than a day's journey.

- When they had reached Marah, they were almost there.

3 - Our satisfaction is tied to our obedience!

Verse 26

- It is interesting to note that their healing and protection from judgments hinged upon their attitude of dissatisfaction and trust!

4 - Dissatisfaction becomes an open door for sickness and judgment.

Verse 26

- The plague of the mind which dissatisfaction brings, will eventually work its way through our physical body.

Our dissatisfaction builds up the stress in our life which Jesus came to alleviate and heal.

- Complications in our bodies from dissatisfaction, places our bodies under judgment for not trusting and being satisfied with the Lord.

(Modern medicine tells us this biblical truth.)

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

Take personal inventory. Ask yourself, "Am I satisfied solely with Christ?" If not, release your situation details and deal with Christ-inward-satisfaction.

Date: Sept. 22nd, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: The Fruit of Satisfaction Part 1!



Text: Luke 1:5-19

“The straightest line between me and satisfaction in life is obedience to God.” Unknown

1 - Unanswered prayer for a change in circumstance does not determine satisfaction!

Verses 6-7

- No child, yet they were righteous.
- Righteousness does not only denote holiness, but also contentment.

2 - Satisfaction means contentment in our situation and belief for God to bring changes.

Verse 13

- As a point to note, the answer to this prayer took too excruciatingly long.

They were old and past child bearing age.

- Verse 7

3 - Satisfaction in God towards our situation will always create the availability God is looking to use in a way that glorifies Him and fulfills us.

Verses 8-10

- These verses show that there is no chances in our satisfaction in God.

Every even becomes a God appointed event...not a chance.

- Zacharias was serving...
- In the appointed order of his division...
- According to the custom...
- He was chosen by lot...
- People were in prayer...

Zacharias kept serving no matter his circumstance.

Ways that Elizabeth and Zacharias were satisfied in their pursuit of God.

1 - The served and obeyed no matter their physical situation. Verse6

- Their eyes were on God. Serving Him was priority to having a child.

2 - Their answer to prayer was to glorify God not only to meet their needs. Verses14-17

They wanted a child - God wanted a forerunner

They wanted a heir - God wanted Israel restored

They wanted security through their child - God wanted them to be eternally secured.



Find a way to serve God and delight yourself in His service. He hears your prayers, but delight yourself in the Lord.

- Psalm 37:4

WHY DID BONDSLAVES HAVE THEIR EAR PIERCED?

There was a song we used to sing about God piercing our ears as a mark of willingly becoming a bonds slave, according to the process laid out in Deuteronomy 15. At the time, I was going through a protracted debate with my parents, who felt I was not old enough for pierced ears, so I really liked that song, and sang it defiantly. I did not understand it then, but that particular part of the Torah was not about jewelry. The meaning of this ear-piercing ritual that God outlines in the law is much more profound than I could possibly have imagined.

The instructions for making a regular slave into a bonds slave are laid out twice in the Torah: Exodus 21, and Deuteronomy 15. As a rabbi once pointed out to me, it is highly interesting that right after the Ten Commandments, when God launches into his law, this the very first thing he says:

Exodus 21:1-6 “When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing... But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.”

Right after the dramatic Exodus from slavery in Egypt, God tells them that the first thing you should know about slaves is that they should go free. For nothing. That the Hebrew people should not be indefinitely enslaved, but offered the chance to go free after a limited time of service. After that, the slave might choose to stay – out of love for the master – but that should be a matter of free choice. Deuteronomy 15 reiterates the principle:

“If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh

year you shall let him go free from you. And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. But if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves you and your household, since he is well-off with you, then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever." (Deut 15:12-17)

Why piercing?

Why a door?

Why an ear?

It does seem a slightly strange ceremony, doesn't it? But as is so often the case with the Bible, if you scratch a little beneath the surface, there are all manner of truth treasures to be found. It's a matter of asking the right questions and steady observation.

Take the principal ideas to start with: Nails driven through flesh? Blood on doorframes? Permanent piercing, with holes and scars forever? Does it sound at all familiar?! If you are starting to see the parallels, good.

WHY PIERCING?

The process was this: The slave, who for the reason of love wished to serve his master voluntarily, would be taken to a doorframe. Then a *martzayah* – something that is used to bore a hole (the word is only used in these two descriptions in the Bible) would pierce or bore a hole through the skin of the earlobe, marking the flesh permanently.

Paul says in Galatians, "I carry the scars of Jesus on my own body." (Gal 6:17 ISV) The word for scar here is *στίγμα* – *stigma*. Here is the Strong's Definition: from a primary *στίζω stízō* (to "stick", i.e. prick); a mark incised or punched (for recognition of ownership), i.e.

(figuratively) scar of service:—mark. The description continues;

A mark pricked in or branded upon the body. To ancient oriental usage, slaves and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to, and there were even some devotee's who stamped themselves in this way with the token of their gods.[1]

Paul is talking about scars, marks, stigmas in his own body that mark him out as a bondslave to Yeshua. But Yeshua also has permanent scars. His scars also came about from having his flesh pierced on wood, as a result of love, and willing submission to serve. “*Not my will, but yours*”, he said. “*The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve*”. Yeshua is the ultimate servant, whose glorious scars all other scars can only be a shadow of.

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.” (John 20:19-20)

He still has scars on his hands to this day, and forever – a permanent mark of his great love and willing servanthood, far beyond any conceivable call of duty.

WHY A DOOR?

The concept of bringing your servant to a door in order to carry out the whole operation is also quite interesting. The New Testament word for door appears 39 times, and is a fascinating study in itself. Yeshua says twice, “*I am the door*” in John 10: “*Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep*”, and again, “*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture*”.

A door is a passageway; a portal. It presents an opportunity to move from one environment to another. Isn't that exactly what all of this is about? As a metaphor, a door can be used to signify opportunity, and "The door of the kingdom of heaven" is said to denote the conditions which must be complied with in order to be received into the kingdom of God.[2]

When we think of doorframes in the Bible, our mind is whisked back to the Exodus story itself – a pivotal moment in Israel's history. The moment when the Israelites were liberated from forced slavery, and were delivered into freedom, where they willingly entered into a covenant with their God – to follow his commandments. Blood on the doorframe is one of the most iconic images of this transfer from slavery into following a new Master in freedom. The blood of the Messiah from his pierced flesh on the cross, the blood of the Passover lamb on the lintels, and the blood of the slave who for love agrees to serve his master willingly.

Crossing over the threshold, through the door, must be voluntary. And Yeshua presents us with that opportunity. He IS that portal – he IS the door to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is no accident or mere matter of convenience that the servant is brought to a door for this ritual.

WHY EARS?

We find that earlobes also feature in two other significant places in the Torah – in the consecration of priests, and the cleansing of lepers: Leviticus 8:1

"Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests... you shall kill the ram and take part of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tips of the right ears of his sons, and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the great toes of their right feet, and throw the rest of the blood against the sides of the altar."

Leviticus 14:1-4 *“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing... the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop...”*

Scarlet yarn? Like the color of blood? And hyssop, you say? Like they used to paint the blood on the doorframes on Passover night? Interesting...

It continues, v14-20: *“The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. Then the priest shall take some of the log of oil and pour it into the palm of his own left hand and dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand and sprinkle some oil with his finger seven times before the Lord. And some of the oil that remains in his hand the priest shall put on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering. And the rest of the oil that is in the priest’s hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed... Thus the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean.”*

So we have priests made holy to the Lord by their ears, thumbs and big toes being made holy with blood from the sacrifice, and then leprosy, a picture of sin in the Bible, cleansed and atoned for by blood applied to the same places, followed by anointing oil applied on top. Our hands signify our deeds, our feet represent our walk, and our ears signify obediently hearing and obeying our Lord. It is a double picture of a life thoroughly cleansed and consecrated to God. Sin is atoned for, and the body is ready for service. Ear to the throne, ever ready to hear God’s bidding and carry it out. The Apostle Paul regularly himself a bondservant of Yeshua, using the Greek word *doulos* (δοῦλος) which means a slave, bondservant, one of servile condition, and we would do well as those redeemed from sin and consecrated as priests to see

ourselves in the same way.

We are free – we are completely free to choose, but do you love the Lord so much that you will go to the doorway of decision and opportunity, Yeshua himself, and bear his stigma scars in your own body, surrendering the rest of your life to be God’s willing slave forever? We give up the right to call the shots – instead, we obey His instructions. Our lives are not our own, but then again, we do not have to worry about what we will eat, drink and wear, but our Lord takes care of us, giving us everything we need to carry out his will. If you would like to, why not read again God’s words in Deuteronomy, considering and applying each concept, and offering your life afresh in willing service to your Lord and Master.

“If the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master... I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever”.

Taken from:

<https://www.oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/why-did-bondslaves-have-their-ear-pierced/>

Date: Sept. 29th, 2024
Speaker: Nikki Baybay
Sermon Title: The Fruit of Satisfaction Part 2!



Text: Luke 1:26-38

“Never be afraid to trust and unknown future to a known God.”
Corrie Ten Boom

The angel, although bringing news of a messiah, told Mary that her life would be difficult.

Mary gave the angel an answer that magnified her attitude that she was completely satisfied with all the implications of her commitment to God’s will.

1 - Mary declared, ‘Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord.’ **Verse 38a**

- Bonds slave is the Greek word, *doulos* and means *someone who voluntarily gives up their freedom to serve another*.
- Unlike the negative connotations of slavery, this spiritual form is depicted as liberating, as it brings believers freedom through service to God.

We give up the right to call the shots!

- Instead, we obey His instructions.

We must like Mary, wait patiently for God to finish working out His plans.

- No Word from God will ever fail.

A bonds slave’s identity came from:

- Deuteronomy 15:12-17

There were three major distinctions of willingly becoming a bonds slave.

1. The piercing.
2. The door.
3. The ear.

The Piercing:

- It was a scar of service,
- Recognition of ownership.

Important to note, that the piercing of a bonds slave happened on their ear and against a doorpost.

The Door:

- An opportunity, a choice/decision to follow Jesus.
- Blood on the doorframe is one of the most iconic images of this transfer from slavery into following a new Master in freedom.

The blood of the Passover Lamb on the door lintels.

- Exodus 12:21-23

The blood of Jesus on the cross (doorposts of our life which is our heart).

The bonds slave who sheds his blood on the doorpost and agrees to serve his master willingly.

The Ear:

- Being ever ready to hear God.
- Leviticus 8:1
- Leviticus 14:1-4, 14-20

Priests were made holy to the Lord by their ears, thumbs and toes...

Lepers were restored from leprosy (*a type of sin in the Old Testament*) by their ears, thumbs and toes...

Our Hands signify our deeds, our feet signify our walk, and our ears signify our obediently hearing the Lord.

2 - Mary's availability and acceptance to God's will yielded an incredible heritage that followed her life and children.

- The Book of James was written by Mary's son James (half-brother of Jesus).
- Pay special attention to what James refers to himself as in James 1:1

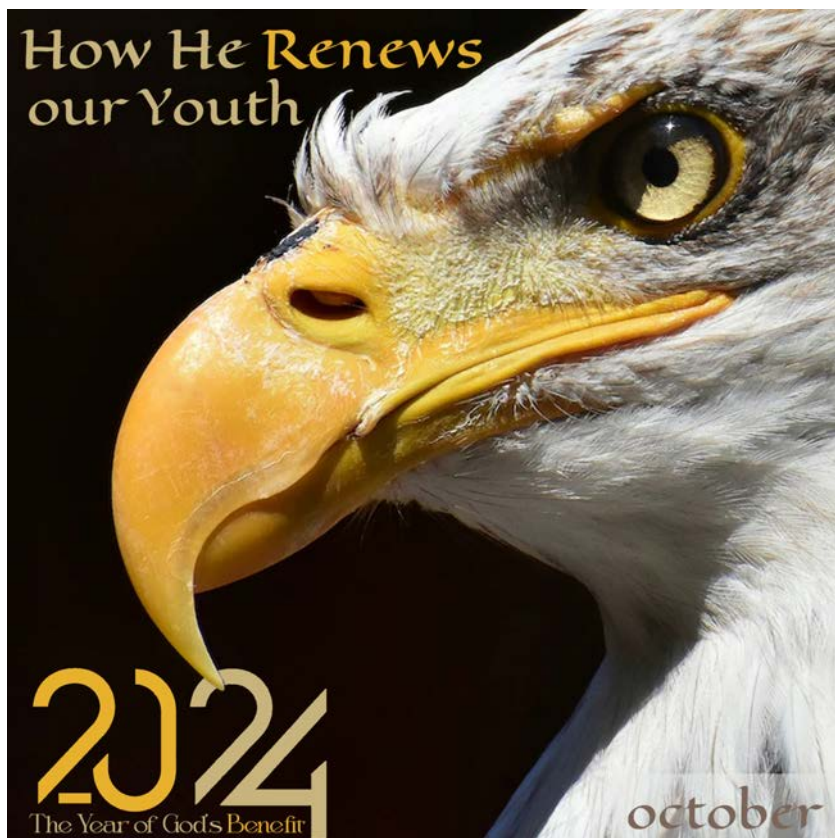
They choose to be content with God rather than have the contentment of the world.

True Contentment/Satisfaction

- Accepting unanswered prayers and God's timing.
- Simplicity - Who are we living for?
- Recognizing that worldly possessions or circumstances will always leave us wanting more.
- Being at peace knowing that Christ's love surpasses all understanding!

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇒

Take a moment sometime this week to evaluate your definition of *satisfaction*. Pray about your desires, that they may always align with what is truly good and satisfying in God's eyes.



Monthly Message Direction:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| October 6 th | The Power of Waiting. |
| October 13 th | Attitude Adjustment. |
| October 20 th | A Renewed Perspective. |
| October 27 th | Strength for a Purpose. |

Date: October 6th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: The Power of Waiting!



Text: Psalm 103:5b; Isaiah 40:28-31

“When God is our strength, it is strength indeed. When our strength is our own, it is only weakness.” Augustine

The Lord has “new” strength for us every moment.

- “New”, meaning added, supplemental, renewed, or better than before.

1 - He promises us Spiritual and Emotional strength.

Verse 29a

- *“He gives strength to the weary.”*
- Weary is referring to mind and spirit.

How does He strengthen our mind?

- Our mind is strengthened through a process called renewal.
- Romans 12:2 which is accomplished by Romans 12:1.

The presentation of our bodies as living sacrifices, denotes not only our physical beings but our physical being in TIME.

If we yield our bodies to the Lord through the sacrifice of time, our emotional state is supernaturally strengthened by the Lord.

- How do we know how much time is needed for renewal?

- Much! If we spend one moment with the Lord and have not had a transformation of mind, we are spending too little time or our time spent with the Lord is not priority time!

We must develop priority time for us to have emotional strength in priority.

2 - He promises us Overcoming strength.

Verse 29b

- *“To him who lacks might He increases power.”*
- God actually supplements our power to overcome any obstacle produced by sin.

Through our own efforts, we are powerless - but through His, we are overcomers.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Romans 8:37-39

Key note, *“Nothing will be able to separate us from the LOVE of God.”*

- Separation! This is again about the closeness of God and our action to stay close to His presence.
- The closer we are to His presence, the more overcoming we become!

3 - He promises us stability in circumstance.

Verse 30-31a

- Weariness, tiredness, stumbling badly, are all reversed through the discipline of waiting.

Why should we then wait on Him?

The greatest obstacle to receiving from waiting on the Lord is found in verse 27.

1 - Receiving a depressive spirit and speaking it.

Verse 27a

- This depressive spirit speaks and says, “*My way is hidden from the Lord.*”

Our verbal frustration with our current lack of strength empowers a spirit whose only anchor in our life is what we say!

Current US statistics (CDC and Gallop) give a median range of depression among Americans at 19.9%. (from 13% low in some counties to 29% in some counties.)

- 1 in 5 Americans have been diagnosed with a depressive illness.
- Reject this spirit!

2 - Believing and speaking that we are “owed” something in this life.

Verse 27b

- This is an entitlement spirit.

According to Psychology Today, “*Entitlement and frustration are inexorably linked...Entitlement breeds resentment and resentment increases entitlement.*”

We may all struggle with bouts of entitlement horizontally (towards people); but when it becomes vertical (towards God) we live on a dangerous premise.

“It’s a good thing we don’t get everything we want in this life. Those unfulfilled desires remind us of

where our true satisfaction comes from: Christ and Christ alone. In the famous words of Augustine, 'Our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee.'"
Chelsea Patterson Sobolik

Matthew 20:25-28

There is strength for us if our eyes are on Jesus and our time is with Him!



Time is always of essence! Take the time in this week to spend enough time with the Lord that you feel the strength of Jesus enter you.

Don't grow weary. Sacrifice your body as a living sacrifice and spend the time. Do it three times a day if need be so your focus changes from circumstance to Creator.

Date: October 6th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: The Power of Waiting!



Illustration for the Psychology Today Quote.

Entitlement

A sense of entitlement is the tacit belief that your rights are superior to other people's, that your right to get something is superior to someone else's right not to give it you.

Entitlement has reached a point where media voices feel entitled to control what other people think and to shame those who think for themselves.

Entitlement and frustration are inexorably linked.

Once we're over five and not cute anymore, the world is unlikely to meet our entitlement demands.

Entitlement breeds resentment, and resentment increases entitlement:

"The world is so unfair, I shouldn't have to wait in line, too!"

Frustration and resentment over media discourse inevitably bleed into personal lives.

Date: October 13th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Attitude
Adjustment!



Text: Isaiah 40:31a; Psalms 37:7

“Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude towards life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.”

Chuck Swindoll

1 - Rest and waiting in the Lord are hinged upon a shift in our attitude. Psalms 37:7b

➤ *“Do not fret because of...”*

We can actually hinder the strength that we can receive based upon our attitude.

“When it comes to health, your opinion definitely matters.”

Dr. Gunnar Engstrom

Our “fretting” actually diminishes the strength we have and puts a block on the strength we are to receive.

2 - To rest in the Lord is to concede that His answer is our only solution. Psalms 37:7a

- The very point of our frustration and fret usually stems from the fact that our answer does not come in our time frame but God’s.
- We fret because of delay!

How to be able to trust God when there is delay:

➤ Psalms 130:5-6

1. Hold on to His Word.

Verse 5b

2. Live in the attitude of expectation.

Verse 6

More than the watchmen for the morning. The watchmen for the morning.

The meaning of this verse was not for those who were simply waiting until morning. But those who had been watchmen all night long who look anxiously for the break of day that they might be relieved.

- They KNOW the morning is coming. They must simply wait.
- Our anticipation of morning always comes! It is not a matter of *if it will come* but holding on *until it comes*.

Fear and uncertainty always melt with the coming of morning.

- Expect Him in what we read,
- Expect Him in what we say,
- Expect Him in what we do,
- Expect Him in how we respond.

Expectancy is the movement of faith!

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇐

Every time your attitude moves out from where it should be, redirect it and pray, “Lord, I submit my attitude to you. Be Lord of my mind.

Date: October 13th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Attitude
Adjustment!



Illustration: for Point #1 quote.

When it comes to health, your opinion definitely matters. That's what Duke University found when they asked almost 3,000 heart patients to classify their health as poor, fair, good, or very good. As reported in the journal Medical Care, those who chose "very good" were about 70 percent less likely to die within three years than those who answered "good." And they had three times the survival rate of those who claimed "poor" health.

These studies seem to suggest that attitude alone can tip the balance between life and death.

Still, there's something to be said for a sunny outlook. Depression and anxiety can fuel many illnesses, including heart disease, hypertension, asthma, and possibly even cancer and diabetes. A positive attitude about health can ward off mental distress and may help provide important protection against these diseases, says Gunnar Engstrom, MD, a professor at Lund University in Sweden, who has extensively studied self-ratings of health.

Fear and uncertainty always melt with the coming of morning.

Tell of how when going hunting in a tree stand at night everything is dark and full of fear. You cant see any surroundings but just quietly wait until the first ray of sunlight and everything becomes peaceful again.

Date: October 20th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: A Renewed
Perspective!



Text: Isaiah 40:31b

“If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.” Abraham Maslow

What is the purpose of *Mounting up with Wings as Eagles?*

- If we wait on the Lord, He renews our Perspective.
- Perspective creates solutions, strategies, and opportunities.

1 - A renewed perspective interprets life through the lens of God’s Word and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, rather than through the lens of experience. Romans 12:2

- We desperately need interpretation in our life and times.
- Experience is not a good facilitator for future decisions especially when our experience is not grounded in God’s Word.

2 - A renewed perspective facilitates an open connection to the strength of God.

Isaiah 40:31b

- Height determines strength in this verse.
- Perspective determines super-endurance.

“Renewing your mind is not just a spiritual process, but a physiological one as well. When you intentionally change

*the way you align with God's Word, it literally creates new connections and pathways in your brain to make that process easier and more preferred over time. Through the process of neuroplasticity, your brain can literally be reconfigured to align with the truth of God's Word and thus create solutions, strategies, and opportunities that best align with God's plan for your life. Remember, in **Proverbs 23:7**, "For as he (man) thinks within himself, so he is...", your thoughts (which ultimately create your beliefs resulting in your actions) literally create the boundaries of your life. If you want to experience a different life - the abundant life Jesus promised - you must learn to intentionally renew your mind."*

-Matt Tommey

How to renew our mind:

1 - Recognize. We must capture rogue thoughts and intentionally compare it to God's Word. Asking, "Does this thought reflect what God's Word says about my situation or does it reflect a lie?"

2 - Replace. If the thoughts we have do not agree with God's Word, we must replace them with promises from God's Word. Remember, thoughts are like seeds planted in our hearts. **We must choose our seeds wisely.**

3 - Reinforce. Every time that we are bombarded with thoughts that do not agree with God's Word, reject them and reinforce God's Word. This is where Scripture memorization and vocalization come in.

4 - Visualize. Spend time visualizing what true freedom in Christ looks like. We spend so much time doing the opposite - we need to dream and release those dreams.

5 - Affirm. The more we speak out and affirm who we are, the more our subconscious develops and makes decisions based on that outlook. Just like children who are affirmed from youth!

<LIVE it OUT>

What Scripture will you memorize, vocalize, and declare by heart by next week?_____

Date: October 27th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Strength for a Purpose!



Text: Isaiah 40:31c

“When we relegate our intentionality with God to a minute fraction of our time, it’s no wonder we feel distant from Him during the times we happen to be thinking about Him and lack power during all the other times. Whatever we focus most of our conscious time on will invariably dominate the way we think and feel.”

Jared Wilson

Our physical strength is tied to the purpose of our calling!

- The more our desire becomes the will of God, the more we are filled with strength.

1 - Our vigor is connected to our spirit/soul.

3 John 1:2

The prosperity of our soul which affects our body is produced by:

- A. Walking (action) in the Truth. 3 John 1:3
- B. Faithfulness towards the church by actively participating in the ministry of those involved. 3 John 1:5
- C. Active self-sacrificial participation in the work of the Lord. 3 John 1:8

It is interesting to note how often our wallet, tied to our desire, once released, causes prosperity of soul which brings renewed physical strength.

2 - Our strength is supernaturally supplied when we are in action - when we are a Biblically Functioning Community. Isaiah 40:31c

- Running produces endurance.
- Walking produces mental clarity.

It is the action of our life - the Biblical Action - that brings in the strength that we so desperately need.

Matthew 11:28-30

- Jesus promises rest and comfort for all who are heavy burdened.
- Yet, He is also offering His “Yoke”. His burden which is His work and life.

As we actively give ourselves to the work of Jesus, we gain new strength.

“We ought to be running and striving to start something new in the church to reach people; or deeply desire and work towards as many missions trips as can fill the calendar year!”

Philippians 4:13 is the strength that comes in the midst of the hardships of Philippians 4:12

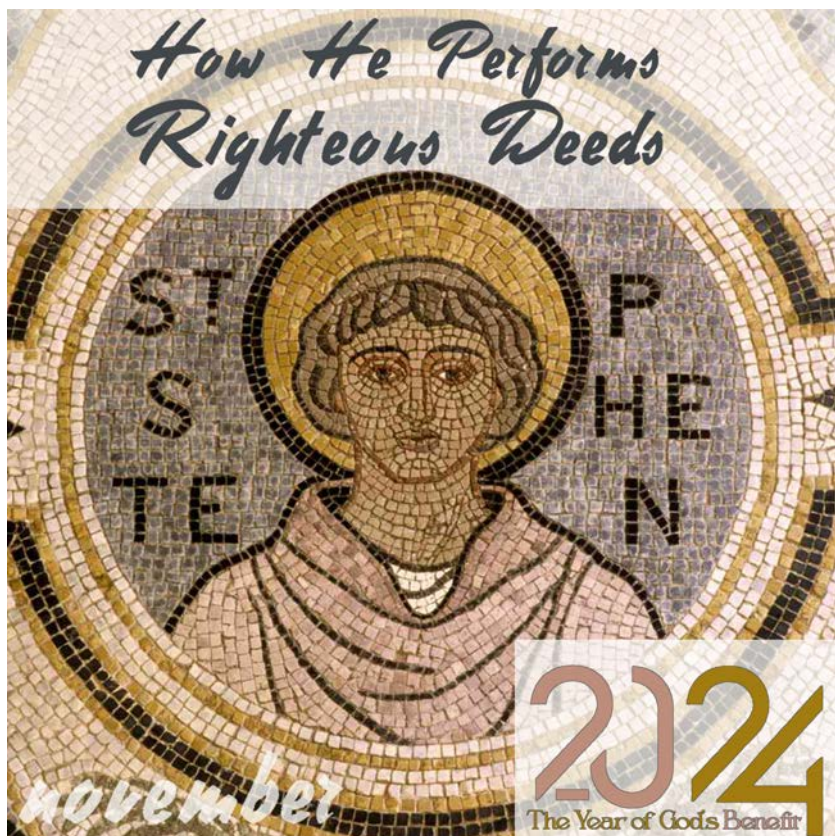
- Humble means,
- Wealthy means,
- Secret of hunger and satisfaction,
- Suffering.

The only way that the strength of Jesus fills us and produces through us is when we live our lives through Him and for Him.

- Colossians 1:16-17
- Galatians 2:20

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇐

How will you be involved and manifest the supernatural strength of God through this church and in your life? _____



Monthly Message Direction:

November 3rd

If We Could Only See!

November 10th

Supernatural through
Serving.

November 17th

Revelation through
Witness.

November 24th

Power through Death.

Date: November 3rd, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: If we could only See!



Text: 2 Kings 6:8-23

“Living a life of faith means never knowing where you are being led - but it does mean loving and knowing the One who is leading. It is literally a life of FAITH, not of understanding and reason - a life of knowing Him who calls us to go.”
Oswald Chambers

1 - We must always take our emotions and filter them through the perspective of our faith.

Verses 15b-16

- Elisha spoke before he saw.
- He was exercising confidence on God's character even before he had the visible manifestation.

We can surmise from this passage that Elisha was not moved, because he must have already been in conversation with God that very morning.

- Not all filters are equal. When it comes to our spiritual walk, we must only use OEM.

2 - The most important thing in the midst of chaos, is insight and not stability.

Verse 17

- Elisha prays for insight not for strength.

We must realize that insight automatically brings stability and not the other way around.

We often pray for stability but don't want to know God in our midst.

In fact, we would rather have stability than the Presence of Jesus.

Matthew 14:22-31

- When Peter began to sink, he wanted stability in environment rather than continue with Jesus in the experience.

With Jesus in the midst of the storm, why is this?

- Fear,
- Discomfort,
- Loss of control.

If we find ourselves in the midst of chaos, we ought to pray for peace and stability, but seek insight and revelation.

3 - Whether or not Elisha was delivered, does not change the fact of God's power and ability.

Verse 17b; Daniel 3:17-18

- The army of Aram was not subdued by the army of God.
- They were subdued because Elisha prayed that they would be blind. Verse 18

The revelation of the army was purely so that Elisha and his servant would have confidence in God.

- The army was there, but it did not engage.
- It was solely the faith of Elisha that became the powerhouse in that moment.

The army of God is in its place no matter what!

- Psalm 91:11

⇨ LIVE IT OUT ⇨

What filter do you use the most? _____

Release it to the Lord. Receive His filter.

Date: Nov. 10th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Supernatural through Serving!



Text: Acts 6:1-8

“We want our lives to be full of the supernatural moving of God, but we lack this: Service to God through His Church.”

1 - A lack in the church created the opportunity for service.

Verse 1

- God has placed us as individuals exactly where we need to be to be fulfilled, restored, and mightily used.
- The problem is that often times, we see lack or trial as the excuse to run, when it is in fact, the opportunity to grow, develop, and experience God’s supernatural care.

If we are in need or lack, this is the opportunity for growth. That growth comes through the push to involve ourselves more than we have before.

2 - The anointing to meet the lack is already here in this church.

Verse 3

- This anointing is better understood as: *the power of God manifested for a specific need.*
- God is waiting to use us. Especially broken us!

We are in the right place to have our needs met; we are also in the right place to have God use our brokenness to meet needs.

“God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever.” Vance Havner

Our brokenness is perfect for showing light!

3 - No task is too small in the eyes of God.

Verse 5

- To feed widows, they chose men who were full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

What small thing is God calling us individually to do? We must break from the lie of self-preservation. I must take care of myself only.

- If we allow God to use us in brokenness, we realize that as we are being used, God is actually mending our own brokenness.

4 - Serving through faith and the Holy Spirit, quickly developed into grace and power.

Verse 8a

- Could it be that grace and power came through Stephen's life after he stepped out in Faith and the Holy Spirit?
- Grace and power manifest through us after we give ourselves to God through serving others. If grace and power manifest *through* us, it also means that they operate *in* us.



Look around you! The healing you are needing is in the action of serving and meeting a need right here! Let God use you! Let God heal you!

Date: Nov. 17th, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Revelation through Witness!



Text: Acts 6:9-15; 7:54-55, 60

“I am contented to consume my body, to sacrifice to God’s service, and to spend all that I have, and to be spent myself, for the souls of men.”
Richard Baxter

1 - Through serving, Stephen stepped into the greatest purpose of his life. Acts 7:2-53

- His greatest moment was the declaration and witness of Jesus in which the apostle Paul would come out of.
- This very moment in time was what defined his short but fruitfully effective life.

“The greatest moment, most fulfilling moment, will only come as our saved soul partners in time with the Spirit of Jesus as it convicts a man’s bound soul, and brings with it the light of salvation.”

2 - Stephen’s witness (stepping out to speak), allowed for God to speak through him.

Acts 6:10; Luke 12:11-12

- We can find that when we step out to speak about the life transformation that Jesus brings, the Holy Spirit will speak through us.

If we want to hear the voice of God for our life, we must use ourselves for His purpose. Why?

The more we use ourselves for Him, the more He speaks through us. The more He speaks through us, the more we learn to hear what His voice

sounds like. The more we hear what His voice sounds like, the quicker we are to respond to Jesus.

3 - God transformed Stephen's demeanor.

Acts 6:15; John 3:30

- *"He must increase, but I must decrease."*
- We must live a life that depicts this truth.

How much of our own life is visible and how much of Jesus is visible.

- When Stephen was witnessing, the people who looked at him, did not see him. They saw something greater inside of him.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall; can Jesus be seen through me, by all?"

4 - Stephen's life and witness caused a great disturbance.

Acts 7:54

- Are we ok with disturbing our world?

The sinful world around us, being disturbed by conviction of Jesus only means that hard hearts are being softened and sinful nature is only rebelling.

- Any time people are disturbed by our faith, it means that they are facing conviction. God is moving in their heart.

5 - God prepared Stephen by showing him Jesus waiting for him.

Acts 7:55

- How would we live if we saw Jesus waiting for us?

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇒

List three people you will pray for this week, and one person to whom you will share the gospel message: _____

_____. Circle the one you will share the gospel message with.

Date: Nov. 24th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Power through Death!



Text: Acts 7:54-60

"The biggest problem today is that it is hard to find any wounds or scars in most Christians. Most of us do not have any wounds, scars, marks of death, or experiences of the cross."
Witness Lee

1 - Stephen declared Jesus, without reservation.

Verse 56

- In the midst of extreme opposition, Stephen chose to declare Jesus.

We have the opportunity to declare Jesus under the protection of our freedom. Yet we don't!

- While being burned by soldiers, Lambert said, *"None but Christ; none but Christ!"*
- Lawrence Saunders kissed the stake where he was bound and said, *"Welcome the cross of Christ!"*
- John Knox's last words were, *"Come, Lord Jesus, sweet Jesus! Into your hands I commit my spirit."*
- When asked to revile Christ, Polycarp said, *"For eighty and six years I have been His servant, and He has done me no wrong. How could I blaspheme my King who saved me?"*

2 - Stephen never took his eyes off of Jesus or the purpose that Christ had for him. Verse 59

If Stephen had taken his eyes off of Jesus, all he would see is the unjust mob destroying his life.

He would receive from the mob:

- Bitterness,
- Frustration,
- Hatred, and
- Loss.

Yet, when we look to Jesus, He redeems us from all of these robbing inferiorities.

3 - Stephen's last desire was that those who were stoning him, be forgiven. Verse 60

- We are not at the point of death, we are usually only at the point of offense. Do we desire greatly, that those whom have hurt us, be forgiven and restored to God?
- The depth of our desire for them to experience the presence of Jesus is the same depth to which we live free from their offense.

What a resemblance Stephen became to Jesus.

- Luke 23:34

What power there was through Stephens death!!

1. Power for Stephen to endure.
2. Power for the church to expand. Acts 8:1,4
3. Power to begin a work in a man named Saul. Acts 7:58b; 8:1a; 8:3. This whole sacrifice of Stephen's life really affected Saul, Acts 22:19-20

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

The greatest aspect of power you can wield today is the forgiveness of someone in your life.

Forgive them truly and be free yourself.



Monthly Message Direction:

December 1st As High as the Heavens

December 8th As Far as the East is
from the West

December 15th Just as a Father has
compassion on His
Children

December 22nd Bless the LORD!

December 29th Reflection and Authority

Redemption from Enemies:

Genesis 19:19

¹⁹ Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life;...

Genesis 39:21

²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

Exodus 15:13

¹³ “In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.

Psalms 32:10

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him.

Psalms 94:18

¹⁸ If I should say, “My foot has slipped,” Your lovingkindness, O Lord, will hold me up.

Psalms 143:12

¹² And in Your lovingkindness, cut off my enemies And destroy all those who afflict my soul, For I am Your servant.

Preservation of Life from Death:

Psalms 6:5

⁵ For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?

Psalms 86:13

¹³ For Your lovingkindness toward me is great, And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Job 10:12

¹² ‘You have granted me life and lovingkindness; And Your care has preserved my spirit.

Quickening of our Spiritual Life:

Psalms 119:76

⁷⁶ O may Your lovingkindness comfort me, According to Your word to Your servant.

Psalm 119:88

⁸⁸ **Revive** me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

Psalm 119:124

¹²⁴ Deal with Your servant according to Your lovingkindness And **teach** me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:149

¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; **Revive** me, O Lord, according to Your ordinances.

Psalm 119:159

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love Your precepts; **Revive** me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.

Redemption from Sins:

Psalm 25:7

⁷ **Do not remember the sins** of my youth or my transgressions; According to Your lovingkindness remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord.

Psalm 103:12

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He **removed** our transgressions from us.

Keeping His Covenants:

Deuteronomy 7:9

⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God, **He is God**, the **faithful** God, **who keeps** His covenant and His lovingkindness to a **thousandth generation** with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Deuteronomy 7:12

¹² “Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will **keep with you His covenant** and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers.

1 Kings 8:23

²³ He said, “O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, **keeping** covenant and **showing** lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,

Date: December 1st, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: As High as the Heavens!



Text: Psalm 103:11; 17

“Here’s the paradox. We can fully embrace God’s love only when we recognize how completely unworthy of it we are.” Ann Tatlock

The power of love is so extreme when we are desperate for it. Luke 15:17-20

“If we lack desperation for His love, we lack power; for we are then living only in our own.”

1 - God’s lovingkindness towards us is limitless.

Verses 11a, 17a

- *As high as the heavens...everlasting to everlasting.*
- The only changing factor in God’s lovingkindness, is us!

If we find that we struggle and cannot come to terms with the plan for our lives, it is not God who must change to our way - it is us who must change to His.

We must fear Him!

Verse 11b

- *Fear is the Hebrew word yare and conveys a sense of fear or reverence. It encompasses both a sense of awe and respect for His majesty and power, as well as a recognition of His authority and holiness.*

Fearing God by recognizing His majesty, power, and His authority over all things, becomes as Proverbs 9:10 declares, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*

This lovingkindness is specific in:

1. Redemption from enemies and troubles.

➤ Genesis 19:19; 39:21; Exodus 15:13;
Psalm 32:10; 94:18; 143:12;

2. Preservation of life from death. Real death...not just death from our mortal bodies.

➤ Psalm 6:5; 86:13; Job 10:12

3. Quickening our spiritual life.

➤ Psalm 119:76, 88, 124, 149, 159

4. Redemption from sin and its effects over our lives.

➤ Psalm 25:7; 103:12

5. Keeping His covenants.

➤ Deuteronomy 7:9,12; 1 Kings 8:23

2 - If His lovingkindness towards us is limitless, our praise become shouts of power, fulfillment and progress.

Psalm 103:1-2, 20-22

➤ *Mighty in strength.* (Power) Verse 20

➤ *Doing His will.* (Fulfillment) Verse 21

➤ *All places of His dominion.* (Progress)
Verse 22

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

How desperate are you for the lovingkindness of God? The lack you are feeling may just be because you are desperately looking for an answer in yourself rather than in God. Long for His Love!!

Date: December 8th, 2024

Speaker: Jen Paparatti

Sermon Title: As Far as the East
Is from the West!



Opening Illustration:

There was a monk who lived 500 years ago. This particular monk knew he was a sinner, he had lived in fear that his sins would keep him from entering heaven, so when a life threatening event occurred, he promised to join a monastic order so that he could find how to get rid of his sins. When he joined the order, he confessed his sins day and night. It is said he confessed his sins for six hours and still feared that he would leave and remember more sins that he had committed. He would stay up whole nights in fits of fear, desperately hoping that he was good enough to be saved. He starved himself on numerous occasions, saying to himself *"I have not sinned today."* But then doubts would fill his mind: had he fasted hard enough? Had he truly done God's will for that day? He traveled across the known world at the time, going to holy sites trying to earn favor from God. But no matter where he went, what he did, or how long he spent confessing, he lived in fear knowing he deserved wrath. There are stories of this monk being afraid of paintings of Christ, as he was so afraid that God would condemn him to hell. When talking about prayer this monk said this:

"I thought to myself, with what tongue shall I address such Majesty, seeing that all men ought to tremble in the presence of even an earthly prince? Who am I, that I should lift up mine eyes or raise

my hands to the divine majesty? The angels surround him. At his nod the earth trembles. And shall I, a miserable little pygmy, say I want this, I ask for that? For I am dust and ashes and full of sin and I am speaking to the living, eternal and the true God."

His superiors had no idea what to do with him, so they transferred him to a University, and he was made professor of Biblical studies. He started to read the Bible and found that though he was a sinner, through Jesus he was saved- he was made pure in the sight of God. His emphasis on the grace of Jesus became what he is most known for today!

The effects he has had on the church of God are still felt to this day. That Monk's name was Martin Luther, who literally reformed the church over the idea that only Jesus' death and resurrection was sufficient to forgive sins. His struggle with his sin, and how he could be rid of it, led to the Protestant Reformation, which led to some of the greatest theological minds of all time.

Including influencing the founding fathers of the United States.

Date: December 8th, 2024
Speaker: Jen Paparatti
Sermon Title: As Far as the East
Is from the West!



Text: Psalm 103:12

One of the greatest events of history is known as the Protestant Reformation. It was built on 5 foundational doctrines known as the “*five solas*,” which state that Christians are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

1. *Sola Gratia* - “grace alone”
2. *Sola Fide* - “faith alone”
3. *Sola Christus* - “Christ alone”
4. *Sola Scriptura* - “Scripture alone”
5. *Sola Deo Gloria* - “God’s glory alone”

1 - God’s forgiveness towards us is limitless!

Psalm 103:10

- The analogy used here is to tell us that we simply cannot comprehend the extend that our sins will no longer count against us.

We must fully understand what we deserve!

- Psalm 103:10
- Ezra 9:13

2 - What we deserve is not limited to death.

Psalm 103:10

- We were created for eternity.
- Adam and Eve were created as eternal beings...up until sin came in and placed a time line on our mortal life...but not our soul! Our soul will live forever!

Eternal separation and punishment is what we deserve!

- Do we truly realize what we are spared from?

3 - We must live in the power of God's forgiveness.

"The power of love is so extreme when we are desperate for it." (Last week's message)

The Power in Desperation. Luke 15:17-24

1. Give in!

Verse 17

This is coming to our senses. When we evaluate what we have and realize it is not worth giving up the presence of God, we then come to our senses.

2. Take action.

Verse 18

We must swallow pride and take the action of repentance. Repentance is about the action involved to reach towards God. (James 1:8) Once we take an action towards God, He immediately moves with power-filled forgiveness.

3. Use our words in repentance. Verse 21

Spoken verballity solidifies/proves inward change. As we speak, we set in motion. This also works in our life through praise.

When the Father sees the son's desperation, His forgiveness is so extreme that it includes:

- Restoration. Verse 22
- Peace in place of fear. Verse 20b
- Celebration. Verse 23

⇐ LIVE IT OUT ⇐

Thank God and actually vocally praise Him for the forgiveness he has given to you that extends as far as the East is from the West!

Date: December 15th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Just as a Father has
Compassion!



Opening Illustration

December 7, 1988 started out as every other day in the northern part of Armenia, until about 11:41Am, when things turned around.

An earthquake struck! It was called the Spitak Earthquake.

It was a major disaster as the region where the earthquake struck was flattened, killing over 30,000 people in less than four minutes and leaving 150,000 homeless.

In the midst of all the chaos, a father left his wife securely at home and rushed to the school where his son was supposed to be, only to discover that the building had been flattened as a pancake. After the traumatic initial shock, this man remembered the promise he had made to his son: **“No matter what, I’ll always be there for you!”** And tears began to fill his eyes. As he looked at the pile of debris that once was the school, it looked hopeless, but he kept remembering his commitment to his son.

He began to concentrate on where he walked his son to school each morning. Remembering his son’s classroom would be in the back right corner

of the building, he rushed there and started digging through the rubble.

As he was digging, other forlorn parents arrived, clutching their hearts, saying, “My son!” “My daughter!”

Other well-meaning parents tried pulling him off what was left of the school, saying:

“It’s too late!”

“They’re dead!”

“You can’t help!”

“Go home!”

“Come on, face reality, there’s nothing you can do!”

“You’re just going to make things worse!”

To each parent, he responded with one line: “Are you going to help me now?”

And then he proceeded to dig for his son, stone by stone.

Courageously, he proceeded alone because he needed to know for himself: “Is my boy alive, or is he dead?”

He dug for eight hours...12 hours...24, and 36 hours. Then, in the 38th hour, he pulled back a boulder and heard his son’s voice. The man screamed his son’s name, “Arman!”

He heard back, “Dad? It’s me, Dad! I told the other kids not to worry. I told them that if you were alive, you’d save me, and when you saved me, they’d be saved. You promised, ‘No matter what, I’ll always be there for you!’

14 Children were saved that day.



Date: December 15th, 2024
Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti
Sermon Title: Just as a Father has Compassion!



Text: Psalm 103:13

“No matter what, I’ll always be there for you.” Mr. Ghazaryan

The Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

Where verses 11-12 shows the greatness and vastness of God, verse 13 shows the closeness of God.

God declares that He is a “compassionate Father.”

Jesus illustrates God as a compassionate Father.

Luke 15:11-32

- While Jesus illustrates God as compassionate, God demonstrates His compassion through Jesus. Romans 5:8

1 - The compassion of God is relentless.

Luke 15:20

- *“We may think that God is not present in our situation. All we are doing is speaking from underneath the blanket while a loving Father is sitting next to us on the bed.”*

In Luke 15:20, we see these attributes of God:

1. He is watchful with anticipation.

- 1 Peter 3:12
- What moves God is prayer. Prayer in distress, prayer in repentance, pray in adoration. When we pray, we have a watchful Father who is anticipating our return to Him.

2. He is longing for closeness.

- When God see us, He feels compassion. He is not removed from it. Our heart feelings are only mirrors of the perfect heart feelings of God.
- Isaiah 30:18; Revelation 3:20; John 6:37

3. He is full of action towards us.

- God “ran.” There is nothing that can stop a father running to His son!
- 1 John 4:19; Jeremiah 31:3; Psalm 139:7-10

4. He is affectionate in distress.

- The Father embraces the wayward boy!
- The Father hugs the stench and sin of the boy the same way that Jesus embraced for us the totality of our sin.
- Psalm 27:8, 10; Isaiah 43:2-7

5. He is fully accepting.

- The Father kisses His son! Divine lips kiss filth.
- Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.
- The Father, through Jesus, accepts us with a kiss.

The kiss that betrayed Jesus unto death is now the kiss from the Father which welcomes us home.

⇐ LIVE it OUT ⇐

Sit in stillness for some time and pray. As you pray, envision God’s compassion towards you and His Presence seeking for you. Give in. Let your heart speak to God and feel the closeness of His Presence.

Date: December 22, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Bless the LORD!



Text: Psalm 103:20-22; Luke 2:13-14

"The war is over. The alienation and divine displeasure toward us because of our sin has been removed. We are no longer objects of wrath. We have peace with God whether we realize it or not."

Jerry Bridges

Peace among men!

We have peace with God because Peace now came.

➤ Isaiah 9:6

1 - Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Not because He brings peace with Him, but because His death makes peace for us with God!

Colossians 1:19-20

The message of salvation is often called, *The Gospel of Peace* because it connects us back into relationship with God. We were formerly known as enemies of God.

Romans 5:10-11

This is why the message to the shepherds on that first Christmas was so powerful: *Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth...*

2 - David, "Blessed the LORD" prophetically. We now can Bless the LORD experientially.

➤ Our action of Blessing the Lord comes from the experience of His Salvation.

David blessed the Lord in the hope that once day salvation would come.

We bless the Lord knowing that salvation has come and we are living in the light of His salvation.

There is a great difference if we will truly use our lives and our mouths to bless the Lord.

1. We declare to the systems of the world that they have become subject to the name of Jesus. Philippians 2:9-11
2. God is working all things in our lives for His glory. Philippians 2:12-13

The experience of Peace through Jesus makes all of the difference in us!

- Our last breath on earth will be our first breath in heaven.
- Our last moment of suffering makes way to an incorruptible new body.
- Our last tear of sadness on earth is the first moment of never crying in suffering again!

PEACE has COME!!

3 - We must receive the Peace of Jesus.

John 14:27-28

- Jesus is not only speaking about an inward peace.
- He is the peace between us and God.

The Holy Spirit now inside of us, brings us to the throne of God declaring: *"This is now a child of God because Peace has come."* John 14:26

⇐LIVE it OUT⇒

Thank God for making peace for you. Approach God and have confidence that the peace He offers you, allows you to seek Him for all your needs.

Date: December 22, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Rai Paparatti

Sermon Title: Reflection and!
Authority for a New Year!



Text: Psalm 103

*Bless the LORD O my soul and all
That is within me Bless His holy Name*

January

1 - Blessing the LORD with our emotions is a choice, not a feeling. Psalm 103: 1

- We must choose and act on the declaration of blessing God through the emotional frustration we are feeling.
- Choices change feelings!

February

2 - We can often curse our own situation and block the forgiveness of God by the unforgiveness of our own heart. Matthew 6:12

- “As we...”
- Who do we hold in contempt for any type of mistreatment?

March

3 - Sometimes the delay is for a greater purpose! John 9:3, 13, 35, 38; John 10:21

- Many people were touched through a delay in healing.

April

4 - The deliverance and healing that Jesus offers will completely disrupt the normalcy of our life. Mark 5:15b

- It is highly unfortunate that depressions, oppressions and even possessions have become normalized in our society.

May

5 - God used the pit to separate Jeremiah from his enemies for a time when He could give him an exclusive moment with the king.

Jeremiah 38:14

- Interesting that Jeremiah goes from pit (verse 6) to holding room (verse 13) to the house of the LORD with the king (verse 14).
- God is promoting us!

June

6 - The most important point to note is that it is not what Daniel did in the pit that brought about this mighty deliverance. It is what Daniel had done before the pit. Daniel 6:10c

Consistency must be stressed in our life!

- We must break the pattern of emotionally led decision making in regard to our relationship with Christ.

Galatians 5:17, 19-21 - These are feeling-motivated triggers.

Galatians 5:22-24 - These are disciplined and anti-flesh-feeling based. They are only actualized by the determined crucifixion of our flesh in a daily habit. Luke 9:23-25

Our consistency will always bring our comeback!

July

7 - To love the appearing of the Lord is to live in light of it. Verse 8c

August

8 - We win souls when we see them as distressed and dispirited. Matthew 9:36

- The greatest block to seeing people as Christ sees them is our frustration with them.

Breaking the uprising of frustration.

1. Repent. Even when we are in the right and the frustrating person is in the wrong. Repentance does not make us be the one that was wrong. Repentance beaks the attachment of spiritual strongholds.
2. Reclaim. Reclaim the frustrating person. Pray and declare over them that they will be part of the harvest and that God soften their hearts.

September

9 - Dissatisfaction comes in when our focus is on what we lack. Exodus 15:22-24

- Our current lack tells us to disregard what God has previously done and to feel dissatisfied because God is not capable of meeting a basic need!

If we are not satisfied with God first, we will never be satisfied with the events of our life.

October

The greatest obstacle to receiving from waiting on the Lord is found in Isaiah 40:27.

10 - Receiving a depressive spirit and speaking it. Isaiah 40:27a

- This depressive spirit speaks and says, “*My way is hidden from the Lord.*”

Our verbal frustration with our current lack of strength empowers a spirit whose only anchor in our life is what we say!

November

11 - Stephen never took his eyes off of Jesus or the purpose that Christ had for him. Acts 7:59

If Stephen had taken his eyes off of Jesus, all he would see is the unjust mob destroying his life.

He would receive from the mob:

- Bitterness,
- Frustration,
- Hatred, and
- Loss.

Yet, when we look to Jesus, He redeems us from all of these robbing inferiorities.

December

12 - Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Not because He brings peace with Him, but because His death makes peace for us with God!

Colossians 1:19-20

The benefits of God show us clearly that God is interested and passionate towards us. He desires for heaven to invade our earth, our lifestyle, while we travel this journey homeward to Him.