

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 10, 2021

Is our focus in life to experience what God can do for us or what we can do for God? As you process this question, it is truly amazing that we think we need to get God to respond to us when at the same time we say that “He promises to never leave us nor forsake us” (Matthew 28:20). Christ even tells us; “do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat nor for your body, as to what you will put on.” (Luke 12:22) Christ goes on to state; “...seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:31-32). So, there is no unwillingness from Christ to care for us (1 Peter 5:7-10). John 15:7 says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” Christ is willing, capable, ready, and faithful to serve us every moment of the day. The question is are we willing to serve Him no matter the sacrifice?

Christ's desire is for us to serve His kingdom's purposes as He does for us what He promises to do. “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:26) This makes sense because in Revelation 4:11 John teaches us the same; “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” This is again implied in Acts 17:28; “for in Him we live and move and exist....” Serving God faithfully is like buying a brand-new refrigerator (we are a brand-new creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17) and making a point to keep it plugged in to receive electricity (abide in me – John 15:1-11) so that it works and all those who live in the house find it useful for their everyday needs. The electricity is provided because a contract was established and sustained by regular payments. Christ bought us for the price of “His life” (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23) and He sits at the right hand of the Father supplying us, through the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts empowered by Him to carry out His agenda (Ephesians 4:7). Again, all of this is provided so that “to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” Experiencing God daily is not difficult because He is readily, always serving us. When we choose to abide in Him and serve Him the work of God in us becomes a living reality each day. This is what He promises us (John 12:23-26).



UPCOMING Events



MISSIONS MONTH

This month is Missions Month and we will highlight a LWFC Missions project that we support both here and abroad with our missions partners. Please view our featured videos, displays in the foyer, and our Missions page on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions. We are always looking for volunteers so join the Missions Ministry! We Are Living Word and We are on a Mission!



PRAYER VIGIL— OCT. 12TH

The last Prayer Vigil of the year is here! Join us Tuesday, Oct. 12th as we come together and pray for the needs of your families, your community, your nation, and the world. See you there in person, on Facebook, on YouTube or on Free Conference Call. **Tuesday, October 12th 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.**



HARVEST FEST

SUN. , OCT. 31ST 1:00—4:00 P.M.

Harvest Fest is almost Here! Fall Festival, Church Picnic and our Family Friends Fellowship will all be combined into one event on Oct. 31st after second service. Fun, Games, Bouncers, Low-Cost Food & a Costume Contest: Wear Your Favorite Bible Character for a Chance to Win 1st, 2nd or 3rd Prize! Kids Ministry is accepting donations of candy, water and non-carbonated drinks. You can pick up scriptures to put on your candy from Mrs. Sylvia Edwards starting next week! Contact your Deacon or Ministry Leader for more information and to volunteer!



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY METHODS—OCT. 16TH

Calling all Men! Do you have a desire to understand the Bible at a deeper level. Well come **Sat., Oct. 16th 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** as we learn fundamental ways to study the word of God. Join us on this journey Men of God! For more information contact **James Thompson** at thompson929@gmail.com



ABC WORD ACADEMY IS HIRING FOR PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

ABC Word Academy is hiring for full-time pre-school teachers. Pay is competitive and will depend on your experience. Must be vaccinated. Submit resume to: chaneatha.woods@lwcacademy.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Steps to Faith

Exodus 14:19-31

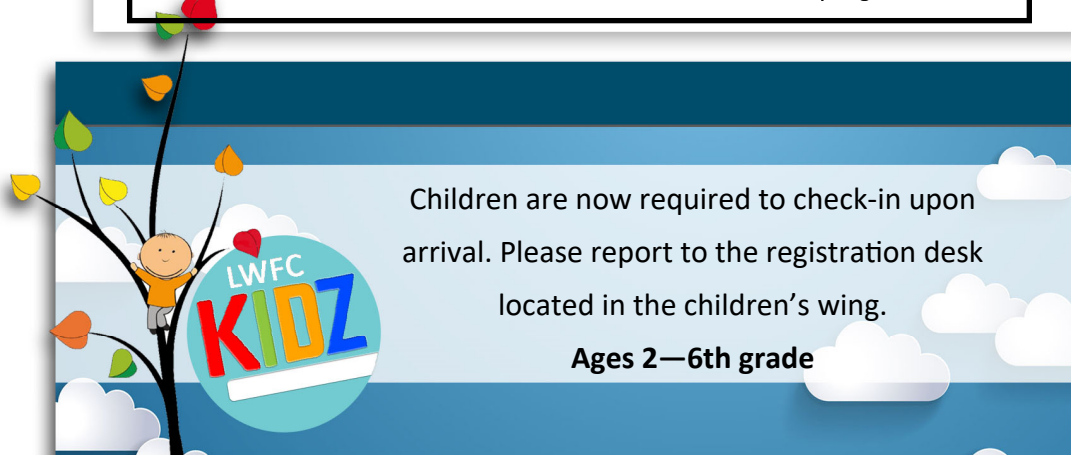
Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



SERMON OUTLINE

Steps to Faith

Exodus 14:19-31

A. God Prepares the Way (vs. 19-20):

1. God's special messenger that speaks as if He is the Lord God (speaks in the first person) moves into position, on his own initiative to protect God's people.
2. They are facing the best of the Egyptian army with the best equipment because the Angel of God led them this way.
3. To stand means that the Angel of the Lord is immovable.
4. God required Moses to lead by purposefully, intentionally extending his staff over the sea. The fact that the sea opened demonstrates that God is front and back.
5. God still uses leaders even though He can function without them.
6. It is because they are His people; He fights for them, and fights against their enemy.
7. This action exposes how the Lord is sovereign, powerful, and is not intimidated by anyone. Not until we are willing to submit to His way, do we learn His ability.
8. "The east wind is always seen as destructive and punishing, partly because the east wind of Egypt, Sinai and Palestine are blistering hot and dry." (New American Commentary)

B. Faith Faces the Impossible (vs. 22; 2 Corinthians 5:7):

1. With the army behind them the nation of Israel was continuously motivated to enter a sea where the water was like a wall on both sides. They had to be frightened by the Egyptians to go the way of less war.
2. The Egyptians seeing the movement of the people continued into the sea with no desire to stop until they destroy them. What people mean for evil God uses them for our good (Romans 8:28).

C. Remember, God Has Your Back (vs. 24-25):

1. At 2:00 a.m., God allowed the Egyptians to come towards Israel until they are all in the sea.
2. God created confusion and distress among the soldiers to slow them down from catching up to His people. These experienced riders could not control the chariots.
3. The word to flee can also mean to escape. They needed to escape from God fighting them.
4. This is the war the Lord steered them to and is completely committed to deliver them from.
5. Israel must see God's punishment of a people who treated them unjustly to the point of killing their children.
6. God does not need us to fight for ourselves. He needs us to fight against our desires to disobey Him because we choose to be controlled by our fears and anxieties.
7. The water is continuously, with no end in sight covering over the soldiers totally destroying them because of its power; it crushed them. "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31; NASU)

8. Pharaoh who viewed himself as a god was shown real power and who is the true Lord God. Israel who once feared him had no need to fear him anymore. After destroying all the of Egypt's gods, Israel had no more Egyptians gods to fear. They were now free from fear when called to faith in the wilderness.
9. With water on both sides and the Egyptians dead the Lord is seeking to develop their faith. This picture needs to guide their faith in the wilderness.

D. Remember, Faith is Rewarded (vs. 30-31; Hebrews 11:6):

1. The Lord on His own initiative, by His own almighty power, is going to physically remove Israel from the oppressive burden and harm Egypt has constantly assigned to them.
2. Israel had a clear, visible understanding that those who once were oppressing them now lay dead right before them because of the Lord's power.
3. When the Israelites saw the dead Egyptians, they became very emotional and reverence the Lord God for His power and might.
4. All Israel, as a result of what they witnessed, continuously had a firm commitment to put their full trust in the Lord. This is going to be a constant struggle until God puts a stop to it.
5. Moses' leadership that was once so questioned was now fully established in the people's minds. They viewed him as a person who faithfully executes God's agenda.
6. Faith positions God to fight for us.



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Joseph Sharpe & family, Alonzo Mims & family, Linda Rainey's family and Verna Mitchell & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, and Nikisha Doyle.

STEPS TO Faith

EXODUS 14:19-31