

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 17, 2021

"In her missions history classes, Yvonne Wood of the U.S. Center for World Missions, describes what she calls the biggest lost opportunity in missionary history." There was a thirteen-year-old in Mongolia who inherited a bit of land from his father. This boy was a precocious warrior with instinctive brilliance as a military strategist; he was also ruthless, and he formed fighting bands that went from village to village until he was ruling over two million people in a Mongolian Empire that stretched from China to India, and from Siberia to the edges of Western Europe. They gave this young man the title of Genghis Khan and he ruled over more territory than any man has ever ruled.



Meanwhile, at the same time in Western Europe, a great revival was occurring under the preaching of men like St. Francis of Assisi, and thousands were becoming Christians. Following Khan's death, the bulk of his empire eventually went to his grandson, Kublai Khan, who established his capital city in Beijing. He had two Italians in his family named Polo, the father, and the uncle of famed explorer Marco Polo. They began to tell Kublai Khan about Christianity, and the great ruler became very interested. He sent the Polo brothers back with a request for 100 missionaries to tell the Mongolians and the Chinese about Christianity. "When we learn about Christianity, there will be more Christians in my empire than in all Europe," he said.

The Polos returned with the message, but no one was interested in going. Finally, two friars agreed to go with the Polos (and Marco Polo accompanied them), but along the way the friars got fainthearted and turned around and went home.

When they got back to Kublai Khan, he said, "Where are the missionaries?" No one came. Eventually the church did send a small handful of missionaries, but by that time the opportunity had passed." (Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes by Robert J. Morgan; Page 562) This entire nation could have been reached all the way to Beijing, but there were no missionaries.

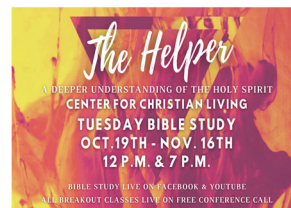
God has a passion to reach the lost (Luke 4:18-19; John 3:16). His mission is to reach the unsaved and it is our commission. "And Jesus answered and said to them, "[It is] not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick." "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32) "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:36-38; NIV)

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!



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Starting this Tuesday, October 19th at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. the Center for Christian Living will be starting it's Bible Study Series, *The Helper: A Deeper Understanding of the Holy Spirit*. This Series will be available in-person, on Facebook and on YouTube and all breakout classes at 7 p.m. will be offered on Free Conference Call. Join us every Tuesday Oct. 19th through Nov. 16th for The Helper!



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 and you can pick up scriptures to put on your candy from Mrs. Sylvia Edwards! **Contact your Deacon or Ministry Leader for more information and to volunteer!**



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

We honor fighters, survivors and those who have lost their battle with breast cancer. We support and fight alongside those on the front lines to create awareness. View our video in the announcements and on our YouTube channel and learn more at www.sistersnetworkinc.org



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

In His Hands

Exodus 17:8-15

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



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



In His Hands
Exodus 17:8-15

A. Face Challenges (vs. 8-9):

1. The Amalekites coming towards Israel was to continuously be at war against God’s people.
2. This word signifies God’s call to arms to fight against Israel’s enemies. This implicitly means that when the Amalekites came to fight Israel, God was ready to pick up arms against them unlike His decision to not fight against the Philistines. God makes this decision because He knows what we can bear.
3. Winning the war was not based on how many men were available it was based on their ability.
4. In the church age we are all chosen (Ephesians 1:3-4) and have all spiritual blessings. We are blessed to be able to cloth ourselves with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). We can learn to fight the fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:11-12) because we have a forever present Helper (John 14:16-17; 1 John 4:4) in our moments of need.
5. The same word ‘fight’ used for the Amalekites is the same word that Moses uses to go up against the Amalekites. This is the Lord’s war that Joshua is commanded to fight, and Joshua does not flinch.
6. Moses said that he is going to stand on the ‘top of the hill’ with a specific purpose in mind. Someone had to remain behind to be a fervent intercessor for God’s people.
7. Moses decided to relinquish all that the Lord has provided him, and he is now visibly totally dependent on the Lord.
8. Joshua without flinching continuously labored to find an excellent fighting force as Moses had instructed.
9. Joshua waged war because it was a war that the Lord would fight for them.
10. They collectively demonstrated their complete surrender to a full dependence on the Lord God.

B. The Battle is His (vs. 11):

1. Moses was completely committed to continuously, as long as it would take, hold his hands up towards heaven.
2. When Moses continuously extended his hands towards heaven it was done with a confident expectation that God would take care of His people.
3. Moses expected God to be faithful to His Word. Moses had no plan to take his hands down.
4. The longer his hands are extending is the heavier they felt. We sometimes get weary in well doing but we must not faint (Galatians 6:9). We must seek help from one another.
5. With the support of Joshua and Hur Moses hands can remain extended for a certain victory over the fierce Amalekites. Teamwork provides the best results

6. With Moses’s hands remaining extended steadily Joshua was able to totally weaken the Amalekites so that they could be conquered. Teamwork – Moses handled the spiritual needs of the people and Joshua took care of the physical danger before them.

C. Remember Not to Forget (vs. 14):

1. Notice Moses uses ‘Lord’ here. He seems to be seeking to establish that it is the Lord, who has all authority and power, fought for them, and provided His nation this victory.
2. For the first time in this conflict the Lord verbally, continuously communicates with Moses. We must learn to wait on the Lord, it is a demonstration of our faith in Him (Isaiah 41:27-31).
3. Upon the act of total dependency by Moses, supported by Joshua and Hur, victory was achieved. The Lord responded on this act of faith.
4. The Lord commanded Moses, when this event is compared with all the murmuring and complaining, to engrave this into the memory of the people. It is to be recorded so that it is unchangeable and binding in nature.
5. The Word of God is a memorial to us because of the ultimate enemy we will experience, satan. It serves as a reminder of the Lord’s power and commitment to us.
6. The recitation is put in place for Joshua so that it is a fixed memorial. This is as if the Lord is setting up Joshua to take over for Moses. This is important because Joshua takes them into Promise Land.
7. Moses himself, put time and energy into constructing and erecting an altar to sacrifice before God as an act of worship and adoration to God.
8. Moses, following the Lord’s lead in establishing a memorial, gave a specific name to the altar.
9. The Lord may not stop nations from attacking His people, but He will sure punish them for doing it. He seems to allow these attacks to expose to His people who He is, create memorable moments, establish His powerful reputation so that His people will completely surrender to Him each day and worship Him sincerely as they come to know who He is.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Joseph Sharpe & family, Alonzo Mims & family, Linda Rainey's family, and Reese Times & 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.



EXODUS 17:8-15