

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

October 3, 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.

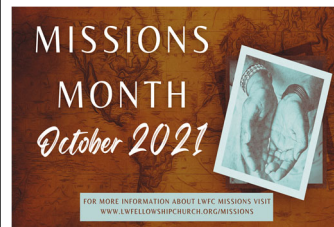
The Polos returned with the message, but no one was interested in going. Finally, two friars agreed to go with the Polos (and Marco Polo accompanied them) but along the way the friars got fainthearted and turned around and went home.

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 to reach the unsaved and 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

The month of October is Mission Month. During this month, we will highlight a LWFC Missions project that we continue to support both here and abroad with our mission partners.

We are always looking for volunteers and we would appreciate your time and monetary donations to support these important efforts. Please see our featured videos and displays that are forth coming in the foyer and our Missions page on the website www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/missions. We Are Living Word and We are on a Mission!



FAMILY TIES CONFERENCE—OCT. 5TH—7TH

This conference is for the entire family with special guest speaker Dr. Paul Chipman, author of the book, "Conflict in the Mind" and his wife, Vonda Chipman, author and speaker. Kids Conference will include: Movie Night, Kids Cooking Class & Painting with an Obedient Twist. Dinner will be served 6:00—6:45pm. Prize Giveaways Each Night—Must Be Present to Win: Gift Cards, Dinner & Rockets Tickets!

Register at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events



PRAYER VIGIL—OCT. 12TH

The last prayer vigil of the year is here! Join us 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 and on Free Conference Call.

Tuesday, October 12th 12 noon & 7 p.m.



LWFC KIDZ PUPPET MINISTRY

Puppet Ministry rehearsals are **Saturdays 10 a.m. –12 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.** in the Children's Wing. For more information, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at sedward@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

LWFC is seeking a *part-time receptionist*. Submit resume to: goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Out of the Way

Exodus 13:17-22

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



SERMON OUTLINE

Out of the Way

Exodus 13:17-22

A. Rerouted (vs. 17-20):

1. These Pharaoh release of the people means that they will never be in bondage to Egypt again.
2. Despite all the horrific things that took place in Egypt God kept His people together and therefore, accomplished what He said to Abraham in Genesis 15:12-16.
3. To let the people go means that they were successfully removed from Pharaoh's presence and power. He has lost complete control of them, and it would never be regained.
4. God was completely committed to His divine will to not tenderly guide His people to 'the land of the Philistines.' God acted by placing a fire and cloud before the people to make sure they did not go that way.
5. Left to themselves Moses, who most likely knew the territory would have gone to the closest crossing to get away from Pharaoh. This word can also mean that Moses going this way and knowing he may face war organized the people in a battle formation.
6. This decision was completely Gods. God did not consult with Moses but verbally made His decision known to Moses.
7. As was displayed repeatedly in the wilderness when Israel faced difficult circumstances God knew His people's heart would fail and their disposition to leave would change.
8. After years of slavery, then war, it would have been hard on the people of Israel to not become discouraged and return home.
9. When the people intelligently inspected the might of the enemy and came to a full understanding of their capabilities they would lose heart and return to their homes.
10. God knew that their return to their homes would be permanent.
11. God endlessly moved the people in the direction He wanted for them even though it would trigger Pharaoh to come out and fight against them. So, God decided which fight He believed they can handle.
12. Moses says 'the way' describing that this is God's divine will to be executed. "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

B. His Way.... Got Your Back (vs. 21-22):

1. The Lord endlessly has all authority and executes His will based on His covenant and His plan for us.
2. The entire nation walks behind the "a pillar of cloud by day," and "a pillar of fire by night" following whatever direction God provided.
3. The Lord being before them means that the cloud and the fire represented that His presence was with them. Moses did not want His presence to ever not be with them (Ex. 32:12-23).
4. In contrast going the way of the Philistines God was committed to His divine will so He placed a fire and cloud before His people. He determined that His way was best.

5. Notice this phrase says, 'the way'. This defines that this is God's divine plan, and it is perfect and therefore, should not be altered (Deuteronomy 32:4).
6. God endlessly never left His place in front of the nation of Israel and was committed to remain with them. God's covenant is to forever walk with Israel. It is the same for us (Matthew 28:20). The Holy Spirit is with us forever (John 14:16-17).
7. God's presences represented by the pillar of cloud and fire became a permanent fixture that vividly portrayed God's faithfulness. God, no matter how many times Israel rejected Him, always fought for a relationship with Israel all the way to Calvary's cross.



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Larry Black & family, Marie Perkins & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Joseph Sharpe & family, and Alonzo Mims & 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, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle,

Out of the Way

EXODUS 13:17-22