

### February 12, 2023

# Encouragers

There was a certain woman who liked going to a particular post office to buy stamps because the postal workers were always so friendly to her. At Christmas time, when the post office was full of people waiting to mail packages, someone explained to her that she did not have to wait in line for stamps because there was a machine that sold stamps. "But," she said sweetly as she remained in line, "the machine doesn't ask me about my arthritis."

Brooks Hays told a story about a boy who was the largest in his class. Unfortunately, he also had the lowest I.Q. One day, when there were visitors in the class, the teacher said, "Otto, will you please raise the window?" As he went to do her bidding, she exclaimed, "I don't know what I'd do without Otto. He's the only boy in the class strong enough to raise that window." Later, she confided to the visitors, "The window didn't need to be raised, but Otto needed to be recognized." (Cranford, Clarence W.: Cups of Light : And Other Illustrations. Willow Grove, PA : Woodlawn Electronic Publishing, 1988)

When God directed the writing of His Word through the Holy Spirit, He said He did it for our encouragement. "For whatever was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4) The gift of encouragement was provided to many believers because God knew that the last days would be very difficult (Matthew 24; John 16:33). Believers need this even for their spiritual growth; "But encourage one another day after day, ...so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13) We need to learn to control our tongue so that we use it for the edification of God's people. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29; NASU) It is important to note that Christ says that each believer must give an account for every useless word (Matthew 12:36). So, God obviously takes this very seriously.

It is not easy to control the tongue (James 3:1-12), but if we practice using the tongue wisely, it can be a blessing to our lives (James 3:2) and to those around us (James 1:26). Paul did not want to come to Corinth because he was afraid that he would find believers gossiping and slandering each other (2 Corinthians 12:20). The tongue can create a lot of damage, or with practice, it can powerfully encourage someone to make it through another day. This is important when we assemble together. "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25; NASU)

Take a few moments to reach out to someone and encourage them. They may not say the right word in return or even accept what you say, but all it takes is one person to exercise their gift for the Holy Spirit to change one life one step at a time. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-19)



# UPCOMING Events



BLACK HISTORY

MONTH



al treasures to local Acres Home historical moments. For more information and to volunteer, contact Mary Wheatley at (713) 851-8831. LWCA FREE VALENTINES EVENT February 25, 2023 4:00—6:00 P.M. Roses are Red, Violets are Blue. Jesus Loves you and we do too! Join us for a Living Word Christian Academy Valentines Event! Calling all fathers & daughters, mothers & sons, DRESS UP & Join us for an evening of LOVE! Register at https://bit.ly/LWCAValentines2023 or

contact Sylvia Edwards for more

information.

SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY EVENT Join the Silver Stars (55+) Ministry on

Saturday, Feb. 25th from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

in the Legacy Sanctuary, for a dynamic Black

information contact Jacqueline Jordan at

Journey with us through a historical journey in

learn historical facts the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sun-

dynamic African American culture from nation-

February for Black History Month. Tour our

elaborate Black History Month displays and

days in February. Celebrate our unique and

History Month program: Black Resistance-Still Hear But God!!!

ALL ARE WELCOMED! For more

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** 

Jacqjordan@att.net

**URBAN MISSIONS TEAM** URBAN MISSIONS TEAM



THE REACH 2/18 Service opportunity for 5th-12th graders to serve at The Reach 4333 W. Little York Houston, TX 77091 on Sat., Feb. 18th, 2023, from 7 am - 9 am. Meet at The Reach. Dress for cleaning & organizing, indoor and/or out. Gloves will be provided. Families are welcome, younger children under 10 are welcome as long as parents stay to serve with them. For more information, Contact Natividad Smith at 832-701-4281.

#### **MEN'S MINISTRY**

**BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS 2/18** Join the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry for the Be Intentional Discussion Series. Pastor Paul Cannings will kick this series off on 2/18/2023 at 9 am. We will have two more BE INTENTIONAL discussions on 3/18 and 4/15. For more information contact James Thompson at thompson929@gmail.com

Children are now required to check-in upon

arrival. Please report to the registration desk

located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade





# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Deliver Me"

Psalm 25:16-21

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship Please remain seated at this time

**Benediction** 



### SERMON OUTLINE

#### **Deliver Me** Psalm 25:16-21

#### A. Overwhelmed (vs. 16-17):

- 1. The Lord promises that no matter who may forsake us, when we trust Him and walk with Him, He will never leave us nor forsake us (Psalm 23; Matthew 28:20; John 15:1-5). He will bless us (Psalm 112; 128).
- 2. Difficult times can make us feel alone, but we must remember that the Holy Spirit lives in us forever (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:3-4) and the Lord is committed to guard us with His angels (Psalm 34:7-9; Hebrews 1:14)
- 3. We can feel that God is allowing us to be abused by all that is going on around us. This is not the truth. God refines (1 Peter 1:6-9) and disciplines those whom He loves (Hebrews 12:5-6).
- 4. Because David's circumstances are getting worse he commands God to take charge by moving him away from all his external pressure.
- 5. "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of *righteousness."* (Hebrews 12:11; NASU) God personally rescues those who choose to live righteous (Psalm 34:19).

#### B. Notice Me (vs. 18-19):

- 1. David commands God to inspect all that he is experiencing so that God has a complete intellectual understanding of why he feels lonely, troubled, and afflicted.
- 2. David needs God to have a complete understanding of his discomfort and pain that arises from the weariness that comes from his hard most difficult experiences as he works each day. His work is so difficult. It is not only painful, but it has become a drudgery.
- 3. Living with a passionate desire to walk holy before God should always be present because it exposes our sincere desire to know God. This empowers us to be protected and blessed by God.
- 4. David's enemies are not just hostile towards him. Their violence is executed with such anger it is extremely oppressive and adversely repulsive.
- 5. David commands God to pay careful attention to him so that God does all He can to preserve his life each and every day so that he can be productive in spite of everything adverse against him.

#### C. Rescued (vs. 20-21):

- 1. Walking in the Spirit of God (Ephesians 3:16-19; 5:15-18) is our victory because it leads to our protection (the armor of God) since we do not wrestle with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:11-19). To turn away, because of how we feel, leads to our destruction (Hebrews 10:37-39).
- 2. David commands God to physically remove him from his inner anguish and the violent attacks of his enemies. This is because He trusts God's love and he expects God to protect Him (Psalm 34:19).
- 3. David makes the decision to decisively put his trust in God believing that God would provide him a place filled with peace while at the same time God fights for him.
- 4. David commits to allow the truth and facts of whatever he is facing to guide him as he seeks to live a life of moral excellence in respect of who God is.
- 5. He commits to also live with the mindset to be decisive about submitting his life to the Word of God. Despite his pain he willfully, intentionally decides to walk with God. This is what trust in God looks like.
- 6. It is the fruit of the Spirit that brings us peace (Galatians 5:22), not responding to the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). A person who chooses to respond to all that the flesh is driving them to do, does not experience the work of the Spirit (Galatians 5:21; 'inherit the kingdom of God is to not experience the Holy Spirit movement in our lives; Ephesians 1:13-14).
- 7. David not only decided to live with integrity and in an upright manner, he also decided to remain steadfast in his faith, while enduring all that is taking place in him and outside of him with an eager expectation that God would deliver him. He decided to put his complete faith in God despite his circumstances (Psalm 34:1-15, 17-19; Isaiah 40:27-31).



SUN. FEBRUARY 26TH 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 7350 W. TC Jester Blvd. Houston, TX 77088 ~ Main Foyer Veterans, Military Service Members, & Spouses

Register with VFI at https://bit.ly/VeteransFaithInitiative

For more info contact **Reginald Parker, Jr. at** 832.791.2614

**Be Eligible For Benefits!** 

You May

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mignette Dorsey & family, Curtis & Felicia Sanders & family, and Verna Mitchell & family, Pam Collier & family, Lora Turner & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Patricia Jackson, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, and Deborah Smith.

