

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 23, 2023

Faith Rewards

Many times, when we feel alone or petrified, even deserted by God, we need to recognize that many in the scriptures felt the same way. It is not like during these excruciating circumstances; these Biblical characters did not fail. Some characters, like Abraham, were called righteous, some, like Elijah, were revered, while others, like David, were called a man “after God’s own heart.” Yet they were overcome by fear, intimidation, and lustful temptation. When feeling this way, how did they learn how to experience God’s forgiveness, restoration, and renewal?

Emotional pain can be devastating because it can grip the very depths of a person’s soul. Think for a minute of Christ. With the beating ahead of Him, before He could be hung on a cross, He took time out and prayed all night, constantly asking Peter, James, and John to pray with Him, YES Christ! It had to be agonizing because the scriptures say, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death....” (Matthew 26:36-46). If Christ can experience this kind of grief and great men of God fail when exposed to challenging circumstances, what can we learn to make it through?

People like Job and Daniel teach us many lessons; here are a few. Job, Daniel, and Christ never stopped praying, the same with Habakkuk. Maybe this is why Paul told us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). They did not stop bringing themselves to trust God in His Word despite their pain. Christ would say, “I must be about my Father’s business.” Job would say, “Naked I came, naked I leave, blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21; 2:10). Daniel was the same way in Daniel 1:8. He was determined to do what the Lord told him to do even if it took him into a Lion’s Den. They all believed in the power of the Word (Hebrews 4:12), that it does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). Their faithfulness in trusting the Word was their victory. They were, therefore, committed to waiting on God (Isaiah 40:27-31).

Those that failed did not fail because God failed them; they failed because when Abraham was overwhelmed with fear, he chose fear rather than to trust in God’s Word. The same happened with Elijah. When lust dominated David, the difference between him and Joseph was Joseph’s commitment to not violate God’s Word no matter how tempting the circumstances. This, however, meant Joseph had to wait on God.

Trusting God by releasing ourselves to His will can be frightening, but trusting God delivers the victory. One of the reasons I believe the church exists is so that we can learn to endure, learn to wait (James 1:2-4) through the ministry of spiritual gifts and the teaching of the Word. 5:7-11). Christ put it this way; “By your endurance, you will gain life” (Luke 19:21) because faith rewards (Hebrews 11:6).



UPCOMING Events



TECH TRAINING—APRIL 29TH 9 A.M.— 1 P.M.
Sign up for social media tech training, Saturday, April 29th from 9AM-1PM featuring our very own Sharon Daniels, Computer Science professor at Prairie View A&M University. Be sure to register and bring your favorite technology devices. For more details or assistance, please contact marketingmb@lwfellowshipchurch.org. We hope to see you there!



WOMEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST
Join the Women of Grace Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST Saturday, May 6, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Register today at <https://bit.ly/WOGPrayerMay2023> or for more information contact Eleanor Wilson at wog77088@gmail.com



CRUISIN’ WITH THE CANNINGS 9/30-10/5
Cruise with the Cannings and Power Walk Ministries Sept. 30th - Oct. 5th 2023 on a 4 Day/ 5 Night journey to Puerto Costa Maya & Cozumel. Deposit of \$225 per person is due now. Full cruise cost starts at \$770 per person. For Full Cruise Details, and Payment Schedule, Please go to www.powerwalkministries.org or grab a Full Informational Handout from the Connection Center Book Your Trip Today at bernice@bctours-travel.com



DEACON FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH 9:30 AM—2:00 PM
It’s 5th Sunday and we have some extra special surprises for you during our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. and the Deacon Family Fellowship afterwards in the Legacy Sanctuary. We will have Exalt the King, a saxophonist, brunch, a poet, a comedian and more! Come celebrate with us as a church family. See you there! For more information contact **Keron Brown** keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LWCA SUMMER CAMP—6:00 AM—6:30 PM
Skip into summer with the Living Word Christian Academy Summer Camp. We can’t wait to grow your child in Christian values, Robotics, Chess, Tennis, Culinary Arts, Arts & Crafts, Academic Enrichment & much more! Pre-Registration Specials Available. Lock-in price is \$85 per week per child ages 5-12. Plus, registration fee is waived if you register by 5/12/2023 online at www.lwcaacademy.org or by calling (713) 686-5538.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“We Will Prevail”


Micah 7:7-9

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

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.

Infants—6th grade



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 6:30 PM

We Will Prevail
Micah 7:7-9

A. Keep The Faith (v. 7):

1. Like Micah, we must intensely look for God to be faithful to His Word with great expectations.
2. Our great confidence is secure because the Lord is faithful to His covenant and has all authority and power to execute His plans.
3. When we have confident hope in the Lord, we can willingly be patient because we have placed our trust in Him.
4. God is the creator of all things and is sovereign over all the earth. He judges righteously so we can put our complete trust in Him to be delivered from all danger. Since He has all power and can therefore defeat all the attacks of satan, there is no need to be distressed when exposed to any danger because He is and will always be “our present help in our time of need.”
5. When we faithfully walk with the Lord, trusting Him through the most difficult times in our lives, He becomes our friend (John 15:1-15)
6. We can be confident that God, who provides His undivided attention with an understanding heart, will fully know all we need.
7. Because the Lord is “a present help in the time of need,” even though it may seem like those who oppose us have the upper hand, by God’s grace and deliverance, as a building being constructed, God will completely re-establish us once again.
8. Our distress can make us think we will remain in a difficult position. It seems like we are in a grave (dark place).
9. The One who will never forsake His covenant and has all authority has the power to provide wisdom that can lead to prosperity, happiness, and justice (Psalm 128).

B. We Will Rise (v. 9):

1. Micah said that he would carry (this is an unpleasant, burdensome experience), like someone lifting a heavy object, the wrath of God because of his sin. We must be willing to be held accountable for what we do wrong. We must not keep blaming everyone else while not reflecting on what we can do better.
2. Micah was willing to be accountable. He recognized that his decision and lifestyle fell short of God’s Word, and willingly admitted that he had sinned. Many people who experience God powerfully resolving issues, especially significant issues in their lives (Nehemiah), began with a willingness to confess sin.
3. Micah is willing to continuously remain feeling heavily indicted for his sins until the Lord sees it fit to strive and contend to stop his punishment (his adjudication).
4. When we are willing to be accountable, we must always remember that the Lord is Biblically-obligated (the woman with the unjust judge; Luke 18) to litigate to execute His righteous will.
5. Because the Lord is a just God and loves us, He will continuously work to move us from the dark places we may experience constantly.
6. What Micah means by the light is that God will deliver him from a dark place to experience a clear understanding of his circumstances and bring him to experience justice and prosperity. He will provide strength to walk in God’s Word, eventually replacing perplexity with wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9-12; 1 John 5:5-9).
7. Because of who God is, His power, His just nature, and the fact that He is our salvation, we, like Micah, can be confident that after careful inspection of all that is taking place, God will provide what is justly due to him in His time. This is why he must learn to wait.

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SAT. APRIL 29, 2023 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
LEGACY SANCTUARY

SCAN TO REGISTER




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Featuring Our Very Own
Sharon Daniels
Prairie View A&M University
Computer Science Department, Roy G.
Perry College of Engineering





BRING YOUR TECH QUESTIONS & GET ANSWERS!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Susie Farley & family, Ethel Lewis & family, Lula Hayes & family, Lora Turner & family, Luciana Hill & family, and Cynthia Wattell & 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, Lakesia 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, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, and Arleatha Housley.

WE WILL
PREVAIL

MICAH 7:7-9