

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

JUNE 2, 2024

Unchangeable



Life has a way of rocking our world in a variety of ways. There are times we find strength, and there are times we become despondent, perplexed, or even mad at God. These feelings can become so overwhelming that they affect our relationship with God and those around us, whether the children we parent, our marriages, extended family, church family, or even ourselves. We can feel helpless and defeated, which can lead to isolation. We are not the only people who have experienced this. There are great men of God like Elijah (1 Kings 17-19), David (Psalm 28, 42, etc), and even Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). Paul says to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:13, “When you come bring the cloak Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion’s mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (NASB) How can we, like Paul, learn to grow through these times rather than feel defeated and distant from God and others?

The pain that Joseph experienced was expressed every time Joseph spoke to his brothers; several times, we read how Joseph wept. It did not say Joseph cried; it said he wept (Genesis 42:24; 43:30; 45:2; 50:17). When Joseph finally saw his father after twelve years, a father that loved him and he loved Joseph “fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.” (Genesis 46:29). Despite Joseph’s pain Joseph maintained his faith in the Lord (Genesis 39:11-18; 45:4-15) and this allowed the Lord to powerfully use him so that he went from ‘Pain to Promise.’ In other words, Joseph’s pain, because of his faith, shaped him to mature in his walk with God, which led God to bless him and promote him to be a redeemer. He became so powerful he managed a nation and became a type of Christ. Our lives may never be free of pain, but it should not prevent us from trusting God’s 7000 promises.

When our circumstances don’t change, remember God is unchangeable (Hebrews 6:18), and all-powerful. Nothing is impossible for God to accomplish (Luke 1:37). The only thing God chooses not to make us do but require from us is to trust Him like David before Goliath or Daniel in a Lion’s Den. Life is rocking. Remember God and His cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 11-12:3)

UPCOMING Events



FATHER’S DAY WEEKEND EVENTS
Come and Celebrate Fathers the weekend of June 14th-16th. Friday, June 14th all are welcome to a Dad’s Fish Fry at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15th don’t miss the Laugh With Dad Comedy Night at 4:30 p.m. for \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids. On Sunday join us for Praise and Worship at 8 a.m. and Contemporary Service at 11 a.m. For more information visit the **Events Page** of the website or contact **Keron Brown**.



Widows Ministry Balloon Release
June 23, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.
Celebrating International Widows’ Day
Widows On the Move – A Day of Remembrance
Register at <https://bit.ly/3QNvhX7>



CONNECTION SUNDAYS IN JUNE
This June Connect with us as we continue to celebrate 30 Years of God’s Faithfulness. We are going old school to the 1990s and beyond.
Sunday, June 2nd — 8 am—70’s/80’s Attire
11 am — 90s Attire
Sunday, June 9th — Bring something that reminds you of the 90s
Sunday, June 16th — Wear Your Favorite throw back Sports jersey or attire!
Sunday, June 23rd — Come dressed “Sharp As A Tack” in your old school church hats and outfits
Sunday, June 30th — ONE SERVICE at 9:30 am
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts and Enjoy Deacon Family Fellowship Family Reunion Style



Deacon Family Fellowship
SUNDAY
It’s A Family Reunion
June 30th
JOIN US FOR ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts



A.N.E.W. BENEFIT FOR BABIES—6/15/24
Join the A.N.E.W. Ministry for fellowship and to donate items for babies on Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Boxes are in the foyer, Legacy foyer and the Children’s Wing. Help mothers by donating diapers, baby wipes, non-perishable formula, and onsies 0-24 months. For more information, contact **Sioban Johnson at lwfcaneu@gmail.com**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music


“In the Midst”
1 Samuel 18:10-30

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor’s Welcome

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



In the Midst
1 Samuel 18:10-30

A. Overwhelming Challenges (vs. 10-11):

- 1. Even though David was anointed to be king, had killed Goliath and the people praised God before him, David still came to play for Saul and respected him as God’s anointed king. This demonstrated that David’s motive for fighting against Saul was pure.
- 2. Relationships don’t always go bad because one person has done something to another. It could be external circumstances that are unalterable.
- 3. How can an evil spirit come from God? Remember satan goes to heaven day and night; Job (Job 1:6-22). Unlike what took place with Job, the evil spirit can endlessly torment Saul.
 - a) Demons can influence even a believer's life (Acts 5:1-11).
 - b) Letting anger remain for a long time can lead to satan getting a foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:26).
 - c) Using common sense can lead to the influence of demons (James 3:13-15).
 - d) False doctrine can lead to the influence of demons on a church (1 Tim. 4:1-4).
- 4. Saul’s jealousy of David was inflamed by the evil spirit which caused him to decide to kill David. Saul took the spear he had in his hand and forcefully threw it directly at David with every intent to kill him.
- 5. You can do good things (David killed Goliath), but that does not mean everyone will appreciate what you do. In some cases, your success infuriates some people because it makes them more envious.

B. Mature (vs. 12-13):

- 1. No matter how much Saul sought to destroy David, David was not afraid of Saul. David’s commitment was to obey God, to live by faith and not by sight; faith conquers fear (Joshua 1:5-9).
- 2. An evil spirit having full access to Saul to do what he wanted with him is evidence that the Lord no longer covered him. It was only a matter of time before he went from a lot of success (1 Samuel 14) to defeat (1 Samuel 24:1-15; 26, 31). God may allow an evil person to live but it is only for the full measure of their sins to be accounted for (1 Thessalonians 2:14). Once that is complete there will be a day of accountability.
- 3. People may not ever like us but our steadfast commitment to the will of God should cause them to respect us and for this, the Lord will bless us.
- 4. When we are saved the Lord’s presence is continually in us because He lives inside of us (1 Corinthians 6:19; Titus 3:4-8). When we abide in His Word no matter what external pressures we may experience, the Lord loves us (John 15:7-10), and also disciplines us (Hebrews 12:4-11). The practicing of the Word causes us to experience the full movement of the Holy Spirit so that we no longer walk in the flesh but in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). So, no matter what external pressures we may experience, the power within strengthens us so that we can overpower the attacks of the enemy (Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 John 4:4). What David experienced is no longer unique to him.
- 5. Our good behavior may not only bless us, but it can also attract negative attention. Christ did good every day but was nailed to a cross.
- 6. It does not matter what evil a person intends for us to experience; when the Lord decides to bless us, there is nothing they can do to prevent blessings from being bestowed on us.

C. Faith is the Victory (vs. 17-18, 28-30):

- 1. Satan never backs off. Remember Peter, who Christ said was being sifted like wheat (Luke 22:31). Well because Peter did not remain sober (1 Peter 1:13-16), satan got to him. This is why Peter says, “satan isa roaring lion seeking someone to devour.” Notice Peter did not say ‘seeking some one to tell a white lie;’ no, devour. Satan had an evil spirit influencing him.
- 2. Satan’s strategy is to get us to depend on our strength rather than the inner power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16-17; 6:10). Remember what satan said to Christ when he tempted Him: “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here....” (Luke 4:9). The same with Eve. He told her she could be just like God (Genesis 3:1-7).
- 3. It does not matter what traps people set for us; “....greater is He who is in us.....” (1 John 4:4). This may infuriate some and cause others to become more sophisticated with their traps against us but remember; the Lord “is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Ephesians 3:20), and “in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37) Even if they mean it for evil, the Lord can turn it for good (Romans 8:28). “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Connection Sundays

FELLOWSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY IN JUNE

June 2nd

70'S /80'S ATTIRE

90'S ATTIRE

June 9th

Bring Something That Reminds You of The '90s and take a Picture at our Photo Station

June 16th

Wear Your Favorite Throwback Sports Attire

June 23rd

Come Dressed "Sharp As A Tack"
-Wear Your Old School Church Outfits

June 30th

-ONE SERVICE- Deacon Family Fellowship
Wear Your Family Reunion T-Shirts

JOIN US FOR ONE SERVICE SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 9:30AM

Take Photos Every Sunday and Post with Hashtag #LWFCFamilyReunion

For more details on Connection Sundays and Upcoming Fellowship Events Contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson

Family Ministries Month

Check Out Our Family Ministry Events Every Week In June

June 1st

WOG Etiquette/ Life Skills

June 8th

Homeschool Interest Discussion

June 8th- 9th

Marriage Retreat

June 15th

ANEW Gift of Life Benefit for Babies

June 14th

Men's Father's Day Fish Fry

June 15th

Laugh Out Loud with Dads Comedy Night

June 30th

Family Reunion Deacon Family Fellowship

Visit Events Page of the Website or Contact Jeffrey Allen for More Information!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Ashley Gipson & family, Brenda Jones & family, Jo Latham & family, Mary Ngwazini & family, Orlee Fields & family, Betty Hopson & family, and Katrina House & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Arnie Glover, and Sheryle Crowe

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1 SAMUEL 18:10-30