

Eagles and Providence

The last day Moses lived on this earth he called all of Israel together to teach them the Song of Moses. The imagery in this poetic language stirs the heart of the righteous and gives so much hope to the saints. The song describes what God did for the Jews as He brought them out of Egypt. "He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up carrying them on its wings" (Deut. 32:10-11).

We know the words of Jesus as He described how often He had longed to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her young under its wings, but the words of Moses take it to another level. The young eaglet is learning to fly, and he does this because he learns how to fly sitting *on the back of its parent*. The parent does not just push the young eagle out of the nest but takes it up and carries it on his back.

Look at these words from one who visited Canaan many years ago about what he saw. "Two parent eagles were teaching their offspring, two young birds, the maneuvers of flight. They began by rising from the top of a mountain, in the eye of the sun. It was about midday, and bright for this climate. They at first made small circles, and the young imitated them; they paused on their wings, waiting till they had made their first flight, holding them on their expanded wings when they appeared exhausted, and then took a second and larger gyration, always rising towards the sun, and enlarging their circle of flight, so as to make a gradually ascending spiral" (Pulpit Commentary on Deut. 32:11).

David also used similar imagery when he said, "Hide me under the shadow of your wings" (Psa. 17:8). "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wing" (Psa. 36:7). "In the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by" (Psa. 57:1). "You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice" (Psa. 63:7). Oh, that we could have the heart of this man whose heart was like God's heart!

In the midst of trials, trust God "until these calamities have passed by." We are sheltered under His wings, but when we reach the limits of our endurance He does far more. Think about that young eaglet, whose world was seemingly about to end, and then his parent came and carried him on its back. God does that for us. ~Dan Jenkins

Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336
509-783-4013

Website: www.Kennewickcoc.com

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: kenncoc@gmail.com

Meeting Times:: :

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; Vern.engelke@gmail.com

Minister:

Bill Gregory (360)710-0449
billgreg67@gmail.com

Bill Gregory's office hours are from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. (Please call to make sure he is in before stopping by)

Attendance 05/02: 40 | Budget \$2484.00 | Contribution: 05/02 \$3097.00

May 09, 2021

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



I Must Be in My Father's House

If someone who knows you was looking for you on Sunday, where would they look? Would they wonder where to look? Would they go to multiple places to find you? Would it be a mystery to them to know where to look? There are two components, I suppose, to this series of questions: (1) Where you are on Sunday, and (2) your friends' and family's awareness of your Sunday practice.

In Luke 2, young Jesus (at 12 years of age) went with His family to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as they did "every year" (Luke 2:41-42). When the family left, after the feast was over, "Boy Jesus lingered behind" (2:43). Once His parents realized He was not in their traveling group, they returned to Jerusalem, "seeking Him" (2:45). If your friends and family were searching for you on a Sunday, where would they look? Would you be in the same place as Jesus?

"After three days they found Him in the temple" (2:46). This 12-year-old was "sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (2:46). When His parents found Him, they were amazed and questioned Him about lingering behind. Consider carefully Jesus' response: "Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" (2:49, NASB). Jesus could have been anywhere that He chose to be. But, where He chose to be is where He said that He "had to be." Some might see that as "had to be" because of compulsion, but should we not see that as "had to be" because of choice? Jesus was where He wanted to be.

With the dawning of each first day of the week, where is it that you "choose" to be? Where is it that you "want" to be? Where is it that you "must" be? Where is it that your friends or family might know (not guess or hope) to find you?

Each Sunday, your ATTENDANCE in the presence of your Father in His house is a must. That does not have to be a "compulsion" thing—God would rather that be a "choice" thing. What is there that could keep you from being in your Father's house?

Each Sunday, your ACTION in the presence of your Father in His house is a must. Attendance is not sufficient. Worship is a verb! It requires action! Don't just be in the pew! Actively participate in the worship!

Each Sunday, your ATTITUDE in the presence of your Father in His house is a must. Attendance and Action alone are not sufficient. Your attitude must be right! Your heart must be engaged! Worship without the heart is vain (Matt. 15:8-9).

The devil tries many things to keep us from our Father's house on Sunday! Let us triumph over his efforts and tell him, "I must be in my Father's house!" ~David Sproule

Pray Without Ceasing

“For this reason, he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me. My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid. So, the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days” (Nehemiah 6:13-15).

Nehemiah who had served as the King of Persia’s cupbearer had returned to Jerusalem to lead the people in rebuilding the walls around the city (Nehemiah 2:5-11). God’s people there were in great distress because without city walls the city lay defenseless from attacks from the enemies which surrounded them (Nehemiah 1:3). Nehemiah faced many challenges from the enemies of God’s people. His adversaries: (1) had accused him of attempting to rebel against the king (Nehemiah 2:19), (2) ridiculed the Israelites for their efforts (Nehemiah 4:3), (3) threatened to attack them as they worked on rebuilding the wall (Nehemiah 4:7-8), and (4) even plotted to kill Nehemiah himself (Nehemiah 6:1-14).

How was it that Nehemiah had prevailed from all of these threats he faced? He relied on God through the power of prayer! It is interesting to note throughout the book of Nehemiah how Nehemiah took all the challenges he faced to God in prayer. When he hears of the distress his people are under because the walls had been destroyed, Nehemiah prays to God about it (Nehemiah 1:4-11). When the King of Persia asks him what he wanted to request of him, Nehemiah prays to God at that very moment before giving the king his answer (Nehemiah 2:4). When facing the threats of his enemies, Nehemiah calls for God’s help to defeat them: “Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads and give them as plunder to a land of captivity” (Nehemiah 4:4; cf. 6:14)! In addition, when his adversaries tried to make him afraid, Nehemiah cried out to God, “Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands” (Nehemiah 6:9). Regarding all his labors he had done on behalf of his people, Nehemiah asked for God’s favor to be upon him: “Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people” (Nehemiah 5:19).

Because he was such a man of prayer, it is of no surprise we observe Nehemiah, throughout the book, seeing God’s hand at work in his life. After returning to the Promised Land, Nehemiah tells his brethren of how “the hand of my God” had been upon him (Nehemiah 2:18). After confronting his adversaries, he told them: “The God of heaven Himself will prosper us” (Nehemiah 2:20). Regarding the plots of his enemies against him, Nehemiah speaks of how God had “brought their plot to nothing (Nehemiah 4:15). Because of his close prayer life with God, Nehemiah was able to perceive that those who attempted to deceive him were not actually sent to him by God (Nehemiah 6:12).

I find great encouragement regarding the power of prayer when I observe the life of Nehemiah. He is a great example of what it means to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). As I observe his life, I learn that I can better see God’s hand at work in my own life when I am staying continually connected to God by praying to Him throughout the day. I rejoice that God encourages me to communicate to Him. He encourages me to be persistent in prayer (Luke 18:1-8). Today, I will strive to grow in being more consistent in my prayer life and to “pray without ceasing”!

“As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:16-17) .~Susquehanna Church of Christ

Keep These Dates in Mind	May Birthdays and Anniversaries		
May 2 - Sunday, regularly scheduled services, NO POTLUCK, plus 5:00 brainstorming session May 5 - Wednesday, first day of the lectureship May 6, 7, 8 - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, lectureship continues May 9 - last day of lectureship, including POTLUCK May 13 - Thursday, homeschool testing at the church building	Mike Manning 5/1 Lynette Jones 5/4 Gerald Funnell 5/5 Bill Lafferty 5/8 Tom Gritzan 5/17 Katie Botts 5/18 Mary Hill 5/21 Kurtis Rau 5/26		
	Bible Studies		
	Adult Bible Classes Sunday a - Judges Sunday p - Romans Wed p - John	Youth Classes Classroom Wing Teen Class - Teen Room	Ladies Class Thursday 10:00 a
Ongoing Health issues: Pansy Caywood, Shirley Childers, Marilyn Davis, Sandy Gray, Fran Henniger, Linda Lafferty, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Lupe Mendoza, Shannon Mendoza,, Tami Pennington, Eunice Petros, Helen Pierce Michael Stimson, Jim Preston			



In Our Prayers

Wanda Danley’s brother, Larry Marquez, and mother Dorothy Danley. Both are critically ill and are in need of prayers as are the family’s of Wanda Danley and Marji Lindholm.

Pat Lindsay has an infection in her leg again, but it is responding to antibiotics and appears to be healing well and will not require her to go back to the open wound clinic.

Rance Reed, son of **Shiela Reed Trahan** passed away suddenly after a short battle with pancreatitis. Please keep the family in your prayers. They are planning on having a memorial in the Tri-cities later on this summer. If you wish to attend, contact Nkese Lewis on Facebook so they can get a count of who will be attending.

There will be a potluck today after the morning sessions of our gospel seminar, all classes will meet in the auditorium, and which will conclude tonight with the last two sermons beginning at 6:00p

Our Ministries

Mountain States Children’s Home

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

Peru Ministry - Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

Food Pantry - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” (Proverbs 19:17)