

March 10, 2018

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

“Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.’”

Exodus 6:6 (NASB)

God’s “I Will”

In Exodus 6 God responds not only to the doubts and struggles of Moses but also the hardships of the people of Israel. At the end of Chapter 5 Israel rejected God and Moses because of the hardships that Pharaoh had placed on them because of God’s request to let His people go. As Pastor Matt talked about last week, Israel chose to serve Pharaoh and not God. Because of this Moses lost any confidence he had and turned to God and said, “SEE GOD!! I told you! You should have picked some else to this! I am no good at this. The people don’t listen to me, Pharaoh is not listening, everyone hates me and to top it all off...we are still in slavery!”

I love this response from Moses because it is honest. We so easily turn away from God when our hardships become unbearable or when our insecurities take control. It reminds me of when I started working with the youth group. Almost every time something didn’t go well, or one the kids was having a hard time and coming to me for advice, or when a kid that we had invested so much time into just walked away, I found myself saying the same thing Moses is here! “Why did you send me to this God? Why did you put me in this situation? I told you I was no good at this, I have been a failure my entire life and you want me to help steer kids to you! You are better off finding someone else...someone more qualified.... someone better.”

But God didn’t give up on Moses, and He didn’t give up on me. In Chapter 6 God reassured Moses. And when we see God’s response to Moses—which was completely opposite that of Pharaoh—it becomes obvious that God is the better master.

God told Moses, “I have heard my people.” God heard the groans of His peoples and saw the pain and hardships they are in. God was listening to His people. He was aware of their struggles and understood why they doubted and were angry. Because of that, God wanted to demonstrate that He was trustworthy; that He keeps His promises.

He assured Moses that he would come to know God more intimately than Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ever did, because Moses know God’s name. God also told Moses once again that He is in control, even though Pharaoh refused to listen to Moses and Israel.

God had remembered His covenant and made seven promises to Moses and Israel. They were freedom, deliverance, redemption, adoption, to be their God, provide safe travel to the promised land, and the gift of that land as a fulfillment of His promise to Abraham.

Like Moses and the Israelites, we are promised those same things. Freedom from slavery to sin. Deliverance from evil. Redemption by the blood of Jesus. Adoption as children of God. God promises to be our God, to watch over us as we go through this life and into the next, and to welcome us to heaven, to eternity with God. All these promises make it possible to join Moses in trusting God, believing that while we are inadequate, God is more than up to the task as He leads us through life. *(sermon preached by Pastor Kevin)*

*Pray for our church plant
in Clifton Park, NY.*

Pray With Us

Ellen Olson: Braydon is sick, and Nick is recovering from the flu. Pray they both are healed soon. Donna Avery was able to successfully complete a full cancer treatment. Pray that she can do the remaining ones successfully as well.

Stacey Sicko: Her friend Betty Ann's husband Peter is back in the hospital with an infection. Pray for his healing and for Betty Ann and her daughter Elizabeth as they do the farm chores as well as their jobs. May God grant them both strength and endurance.

Marie Hoffman: A co-worker's son who is in jail in FL has some decisions to make regarding his future. May God grant him wisdom and discernment in making the best choice for him.

Dorothy Stall: Thankful for a safe trip home from FL and for all the prayers sent for them. Thankful that we are blessed with a talented praise band that fills our hearts with praise for our God. Please pray for Pastor McCall as he lost his wife last year. He is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Bob Michaels: Continue to pray for Frank's sister Linda as her life is coming to an end. May all the family have God's grace and peace. Thankful for Linda's faith which is so strong.

Jen Bonesteel: The son of Kevin's friend has leukemia. He has finished his chemotherapy treatments. Pray that he goes into remission and doesn't need more treatment later.

Darlene Shorter: Her daughter Lydia is moving into a new home, pray for Lydia, her husband and new baby as this is a stressful time for all.

Melinda Goodermote: Her friend Cindy Minkler had a scan done and no new cancer was found. Some of her tumors have shrunk. Pray that the treatments will maintain her status.

Jon Gerstel: Continue to pray for his co-worker Jason and wife Tiffany; their son Ryder is going through a difficult time May God lead them to a church that will nurture them.

Matt Olson: He was able to share his faith with a young man named Steven. Pray for both Steven and his wife Samantha that they will be led to a Bible preaching, Bible teaching church where they live.

Berlin Youth Fellowship,
Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm
(grades K-12)

Weekly Events

Women's Bible Study, Evening study Tuesdays, 7 pm in the church library.
Daytime study Wednesdays at 10 am in the church library.

Bennington YF, Wednesdays, 6 pm, at the Bennington Rec Center.

Men's Bible Study, Thursdays, 7 pm in the church library.

Upcoming Events

Youth Fellowship Planned Fast, March 23-24. See Pastor Kevin for details.

Quarterly Business Meeting, Sunday, April 22, 2 pm.