

Family Information

Sermon Series Title
Be My Witnesses
Sermon Passage
Acts 1:6-11

Thoughts to Consider:

- 1) If you could ask Jesus 1 question, what would it be?
- 2) Do you ever feel alone in your spiritual life?
- 3) What qualifies us to be witnesses for Jesus?

January Challenge

“Do something daily to remind yourself of Jesus”

Thoughts About Jesus

Jesus wants us to understand four things: First, that He Himself is our ground, the soil from which we grow, the foundation on which we are built. Second, that He guards us and keeps us safe when we are in the midst of sin, when our own choices allow our enemies to surround us, when we do not even realize our own need. Third, that He guards us with care and kindness, showing us where we have gone astray. And fourth, that His presence is always with us, and His loving gaze never wavers, for He wants us to turn back to Him and become united with Him in love, as He is with us.

- Julian of Norwich
(1342-1416)

Calendar

January 2020

25 Tubing At Mad River Mountain 9-12
29 Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30am

February 2020

5 Singing At willow Brook Home 10:30am
7 Teen Game Night 6:30-9:00
9 Single Sisters Lunch
9 Services At Willow Brook
14-16 Winterfest

For The Month of January
Invitation/ Responses: Jeff McVicker
Foyer Duty: Jack Evans
Greeters: Mike and Leisha Evans
Announcements: Art Silva

Communion Servers
Frank Agyei Patrick Boateng
Lynn Champney James Milnor
Leon Norwood Phil Stafa
Nick Strawser Randy Yates

Contribution

Last Average
Week YTD

General:	\$3825	\$4815
Designated:	\$105	\$140

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship 3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Elmer Renderos

There Are No Substitutes For God

Automobiles and subways, televisions and radios, dollars and cents can never be substitutes for God. For long before any of these came into existence, we needed God. I'm not going to put my ultimate faith in things, gadgets and contrivances.

As a young man with most of my life ahead of me, I decided early to give my life to something eternal and absolute. Not to these little gods that are here today and gone tomorrow, but to God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Not in the little gods that can be with us in a few moments of prosperity, but in the God who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death and causes us to fear no evil.

Not in the god that can give us a few Cadillac cars and Buick convertibles, as nice as they are, that are in style today and out of style three years from now, but the God who threw up the stars to bedeck the heavens like swinging lanterns of eternity.

Not in the god that can throw up a few skyscraping buildings, but the God who threw up the gigantic mountains, kissing the sky, as if to bathe their peaks in the lofty blues.

Not in the god that can give us a few televisions and radios, but the God who threw off the great cosmic light that gets up early in the morning in the eastern horizon, who paints its technicolor across the blue - something men could never make.

I'm not going to put my ultimate faith in the little gods that can be destroyed in an atomic age, but the God who has been our help in ages past, and our hope for years to come, and our shelter in the time of storm, and our eternal home. That's the God that I'm putting my ultimate faith in. That's the God that I call on you to worship this morning.

Go out and be assured that God is going to last forever. Storms might come and go. Our skyscraping buildings will come and go. Our beautiful automobiles will come and go, but God will be here. Plants may wither, the flowers may fade away, but the word of our God shall stand forever, and nothing can ever stop him.

The God that I'm talking about this morning is the God of the universe and the God that will last through the ages. If we are to go forward this morning, we've got to go back and find that God. That is the God that demands and commands our ultimate allegiance. If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover that all reality hinges on him.



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- Martin Luther King, Jr.
(excerpts from a sermon), 1954

Cast Your Cares On The Lord

(When Will Bedloe Strike Again?)

As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice. - Psalm 55:16-17

Every morning brings new trials, yet each day brings its own blessings. Every evening brings its fears and sorrows, yet each day God hears our prayers and each day our Heavenly Father shows us his compassion. And Jesus reassures us that he has overcome the world, and he has opened the curtain to God's dwelling, where we may find inner peace and rest for our souls - *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33).*

The 1960s TV comedy series "Petticoat Junction" took place in a poor rural valley, where the residents helped each other with life's difficulties. For transportation they depended on the run-down local railroad, and for advice they would turn to Mrs. Bradley, the widow who ran the local hotel. Yet every so often they had to face Homer Bedloe, a hard-hearted railroad executive determined to shut down their railroad line and put them all out of business.

They hadn't done anything to Bedloe; he just disliked them because he considered them inefficient and old-fashioned. Likewise, believers in Jesus will always be opposed by those who just don't want to live by the grace of Jesus, and the accuser himself will never stop trying to harm us with his schemes and reproaches, yet when we trust in Jesus, he will rescue us with our souls unharmed from these spiritual battles - *He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me. - Psalm 55:18*

They never knew when or how Bedloe would strike again. Since it was beyond them to prepare for every possibility, they just reassured one another that they would face things together. Bedloe's tactics ranged from bribery to threats to deceit, so fortunately they would often backfire by getting him into trouble. We too never know when the accuser might attack us, and we never know the trick or distraction or taunt he may try next, yet Jesus reassures us that he will be with us - *God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change—he will hear them and humble them. - Psalm 55:19*

Despite Bedloe's hostility, Mrs. Bradley and the others always showed him hospitality. This never softened him, yet often it would win over someone else who could halt Bedloe's schemes. One time it was the railroad president himself, another time it was Bedloe's equally hard-hearted son, when they appreciated the residents' kindness and their peaceful way of life. Likewise, when we walk in the light and grace of Jesus, and cast our cares on God, he will sustain us each step - *Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you. - Psalm 55:22*

This world may hard press us and its ways often perplex us, yet God's words nourish our hearts and his presence comforts our spirits, and his compassion and his care will endure forever.

- Mark Garner

Sing To The Lord A New Song

This week, Dot Duncan writes about one of her favorite songs. In upcoming weeks, some more of Northland's members will be writing on similar topics.

God Determines The Times And Places . . .

One of my favorite songs is "God Bless America", a song I learned in grade school. Though it is a patriotic song, it has a spiritual message.

On one occasion I found myself singing the song; as I bellowed out the lyric "God Bless America, my home sweet home"; there was a quietness that was followed by a question: "Why did God choose America for me?"

Then I remembered *Acts 17:26-27 . . . and He marked out their appointed times in history and . . . God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though he is not far . . . (NIV).*

You see, God chose the best time and place for us to live so that we would seek Him and come to know Him.

Another lyric caught my attention, "Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer." This reminded me that God wants us to not only show gratitude toward Him for choosing the time and place; but to show His love to a people and pray for them to be saved.

I Timothy 2:1-4- I urge, . . . first of all, that . . . prayers . . . and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and . . . , that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (NIV).

It is not by happenstance God chose your specific time and place to live. He has given you the best opportunity to become His child and to share His love with those around you.

- Dot Duncan

