

August 25, 2018

“JOURNEYS”

- SET-UP 7:45-9:00
- OPENING INTRODUCTIONS/TABLE “ ICE-BREAKER “
- GIFT DRAWINGS
- WORSHIP WITH C/R WORSHIP TEAM
- “JOURNEYS”
- Cathy to explain/instruct Passports- CORPORATE
- PRAYER AND MINISTRY AT TABLES
- CLOSING WORSHIP SONG AND PRAYER
- Maggie will take responsibility of the nursery
- Please keep in prayer for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

There are no time constraints on God.

Journeys

1. How would you define a journey?
2. Definitions: Synonyms/Antonyms
3. Where are we going with this?
4. I Samuel 9-15 Saul is anointed to be King by Samuel and is filled with God's Spirit. The people confirm Saul as their king under the presence of God. Samuel warns his people that in their asking for a king they have made a big mistake. So...Saul reigns as king of Israel for 42 years. His path is a constant path or journey of war against the "Philistines". He, at one point, is supposed to wait for Samuel before making any strategic move. He gets impatient. He wants to keep moving in hope of winning the battle and in ending this

journey so he, Saul, takes matters into his own hands. He commands his men to fight. Samuel does show up and is a little upset. What have you done? WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT? You have disobeyed me. There were major consequences to Saul's disobedience. The Lord took all of Saul's weapons away. Eventually favor was restored w the Lord through Saul's son Jonathan who's "eyes were on Him" (1 Sam.14:12 ref). Chapter 15 of Samuel describes Saul's last and final major , big time act against the Lord. The prophet Samuel was sent by the Lord to command Saul to kill the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they came out of Egypt. These were not nice people. Saul was to put to death all men, women, and children, and all livestock. (15:3) Of course the Israelites did not follow

God's direction. The best was saved. the weakest were killed. And he, Saul, allowed Agag the King of the Amalekites to live. Saul was confronted by God. "Saul what is it that you have done? Did you follow through with what I commanded you to do?" Saul, hesitates, "No Lord, I kept the best to sacrifice to you as an offering...." hesitation, trying to back- peddle. The Lord " I did not ask for sacrifices Saul. I asked for obedience. Because you have disobeyed me, you have lost your kingdom and will no longer be king over my people." Consequences. (15:3-35)

-To obey is better than sacrifice.....-

5. David and Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11

Sin #1 David lusted after Bathsheba which lead to

Sin #2 They slept together and Bathsheba became pregnant.

Sin #3 David brought Bathsheba's husband Uriah home from the battlefield to sleep w his wife in attempt to cover up David's sin. Problem: Uriah refused to lie w his wife and enjoy himself while his men were fighting in battle.

Sin # 4 David sent a letter to Joab Commander in Chief to instruct him to put Uriah on the front line so he would be killed. He was. David committed murder!!!

Nathan the prophet confronted David of his sins, told David his son would not survive. David repented and waited at the infant's bedside for 10 days until the infant passed away, pleading with God to spare the child's life.

David then got up and returned to his life as king. Psalm 51.

6. The Book of Job is the story of our humanity. A life time of journeys, steps, trips, paths, standstills, you name it.

Job was a very successful man who had great wealth.

Satan received permission from the Lord to try to break

Job, to destroy his belief in the living God. First he lost all

of his wealth. he did ok with that. Then all of his servants

were killed. Then his sons and daughters were killed. Job

began to grieve. And he worshiped God.

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb and naked I
will depart”

In all of this Job did not sin...1vs 1-22

Then 2:9 Job’s wife said “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and Die.” Still Job did not sin.

Then Job's three best friends showed up...Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Now by this time Job had broken out in sores, deep wounds, itching, burning. His friends were there to support Job. Job pretty much had had it. he was done. He wanted no more. He was questioning his very presence, his usefulness in life and before God but he did not sin to create any of these calamities. Again his friends were there for him . So they said. Each one had three tries at comforting Job but they all said "but you must of done something evil Job for all of this to happen.". By the third time Job stopped listening. Ch 27:2 Job starts in on self-pity but then goes into self-defense, maintaining his integrity and innocence. Then he confronts his friends regarding their accusations. (27) The Interlude Chapter is chapter 28. It is here where Job talks about where true

wisdom is found finishing with “The fear of the Lord- that is where wisdom is found!. vs28

Then for some reason, in Chapter 29, Job lives in the past.

His past glories, from a place of desperation and self-pity.

A total of 33 times Job talks about what he did or what he

was.....In Chapter 31 Job begins to justify himself for all

he has done and for all which he did not do. He provides

every reason you can think of. He begins to tell God what

He should do.....judging him in right standing, I'm better

than, etc.

Finally in Chapter 32 - 39 a younger friend Elihu has finally

had enough and confronts job with “ Who do you think you

are in the scheme of things? It is the breath of the

Almighty that gives life!”.

“For God is greater than any mortal!”. “For God does speak one way or another, though no one perceives Him.”.

A Person can pray to God and seek His favor, see his face and shout for joy!”. “....that the light of life may shine on them.”

36:15 Says “But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering, he speaks to them in their affliction.” 37:23 Says “The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power....”

“Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm.”. 38:1

The Lord said to Job: “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Let him who accuses God answer Him!”. (40:2) Then Job answered the Lord;

I am unworthy-how can i reply to you.....Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm and and said get it together!

I will ask you questions and you will answer them” .

(40:4-7) And the Lord did. Job replied to the Lord (42:1-6) I know you can do all things Lord. Your plans can not be stopped ever. I spoke of things I should not have because I did not know what I was speaking of... things I did not understand. You said to listen to you and you spoke and you answered. But now my eyes, they have seen you, Lord! I repent Lord. (In other words he heard, but he did not listen!)

Job's riches were restored to the Lord's servant Job as was his family (seven sons and three daughters who he treated equally) and his servants. His extended family had restored relationships with Job. And His three friends? They too repented before the living God and thru Job's

prayer to the Father they too were forgiven! Job lived to be 140 years old. My question : did he have the same wife who condemned him?

7. The Book of Ester. This is a very short book which reads like a mystery/legal thriller. A book lined with plots, intrigue, discrimination, class distinction, contempt, etc.

Here I am only going to touch on one specific area. WHEN GOD SAYS “YOU MAKE THE CHOICE. BUT FIRST LOOK AT ALL YOUR OPTIONS CAREFULLY AND THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR EACH ONE. ARE YOU FIRST OF ALL GOING TO ASK THE DIRECTION (NOT ANSWERS) OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO DO YOUR OWN THING?

In Chapter 3 Haman comes up w a plot to kill all of the Jews within King Xerxes's kingdom. This all stemmed from Ester's cousin Mordecai's (who raised her) refusal to honor Haman by humbly bowing down to him and paying respect. After all he was second in charge to the King and had the Kings signet ring. Hamon used this ring to send a letter out to all of the provinces within the kingdom with a command to kill all Jews from infant to old, men, boys, girls, and women. He went before the king and told the king only that there was a people who would not respect the king or give him the honor he so deserved but did not tell him who the people were. Just that their customs were different and they did not obey the law of the land. The King OK'D the degree and dispatchers were sent out to the provinces.

People were confused as to what was going to happen.

In Chapter 4, Mordecai becomes extremely concerned for his people and the prospect of their fate. There was also great mourning and anguish among the Jews throughout the provinces. Word was given to Ester by Mordecai through a servant about what was being transpired. Ester was not happy. Mordecai also instructed her to go before the King and beg for his mercy and plead with him for her people. She sent word back that if the King did not summon her she would be put to death unless he extended his golden scepter. Mordecai's response " Don't think because you are in the king's house you alone will escape. You'll face an even greater death, you and your father's family will perish. Queen Ester's respond "Gather the people of

Susa together and fast. then I will do as you ask. If I perish I perish!". 4-16

Queen Ester was faced with two choices 1. to die 2. to die. But behind each choice was how did she really want to die? In disgrace to her people or taking a risk ,with the help of the Lord, through Fasting and prayer by her people, to approach the King in his court through faith that he would reach out for her. She decided that the risk was the more honorable way to go!

Chapters 5-10 tell the rest of this magnificent story of faith and courage.

God sometimes says here are the choices . Lean into me and not unto your own understanding, then make your choice!

8. Acts 9 Speaks of Saul's conversion to Christ and his face to face encounter w Christ.

- a. Saul was not a believer
- b. Saul was a very educated-man in the ways of his faith
- c. Paul was extremely self-righteous
- d. Paul was a murderer and a persecutor of the believers of our risen King.
- e. People were afraid of him for great reason
- f. Jesus knocked him on his face and blinded him.
- g. He was introduced to the disciples as instructed by the Lord thru Ananias.

This is the beginning of Saul who became Paul's Ministry.

His calling was to preach, teach, evangelize, build churches amongst the gentiles (non-jews). He suffered many journeys of persecution, illness, imprisonment, and

finally loss of life but never once strayed from his walk with Christ! Chapter nine gives a foundation for his ministry.

Paul never put himself above any man and never above the Lord. Romans 14:1 Paul says to accept the one who's faith is weak.... Romans 7:15 Paul states I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do

IS 26:7a NIVThe path of the righteous is level

The path of right living people is level... Message

Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

“Stand at the crossroads and look: ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it and you shall find rest.

Psalm 119:105 NIV

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet.

Acts 2:28 NIV

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

Luke 1:79 NIV

to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the path of peace.

2 Timothy 4:18 NIV

.....and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever, amen!

