

Morning Worship

November 13, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Hymn # 537 *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story* Tim/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Chorus # 386 *The Family of God* Tim/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Marcia Hart

Anthem *Forever Reign* Worship Choir

Hymn # 197 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* Tim/People

Hymn # 202 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Tim/People

Chorus # 223 *Alleluia* Tim/People

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading Allan/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 308 *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* Tim/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Chorus # 457 *Lord, Be Glorified* Tim/People

Hardening of the Heart

Romans 9:14-18, Exodus 7-10

Our Romans passage today tells us of God's purpose for hardening Pharaoh's heart and how God works out the deliverance of His people. This morning we examine the consequences of a hard heart.

The First Response: Blatant Disobedience .

Moses and Aaron had stood before Pharaoh and delivered the message of God, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Let My people go..." (5:1). Pharaoh's response was, "Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice?" Or to put it another way he was saying, "Who does Jehovah think He is to tell Pharaoh what he must do?" Pharaoh then increased the burden of the children of Israel, from now on they would make the same number of bricks but they would have to gather their own straw. Moses left the presence of Pharaoh dejected and depressed, the people even blamed Moses and Aaron for the increase in their work load. Moses took his burden to the LORD (5:22), there God reassured him of His unchanging purpose (6:1).

God then told Moses that he is to go back to Pharaoh and tell him "he must let my people go." (6:10). God explained to Moses what he can expect to happen in Exodus 7: 1-5. Pharaoh ignored the signs done at the hands of Moses. Pharaoh was not convinced that the miracles he witnessed possessed any uniqueness since the magicians in his court could duplicate some. The magicians indeed seem to be able to turn their rods into serpents. Just how they were able to do this is a matter of conjecture. Whether they were able to perform some kind of optical illusion, used

sleight of hand or actually worked a genuine miracle through Satanic power is argued by Biblical scholars. But the one thing we do know is that whatever they did seemed to satisfy the heart of this wicked king.

The bottom line is Pharaoh resisted all efforts of Moses to get the children of Israel released. Once the issue was forced, it would take ten plagues before Pharaoh would give the command let Israel go. The first of God's judgments was against the waters of Egypt (7:14-25). In verse 25 we are told that Pharaoh's heart was not moved by this. The plague lasted seven days. It was a severe judgment, but the Bible says that Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he refused to let the people go (7:22).

The Second Response: Insincerity .

The second plague that God brought was *the Plague of the Frogs* (8:1-15). This is especially significant because the frog was considered sacred in Egypt and could not be killed. There was nothing they could do about this situation. They came to loathe the very symbols of their worship. The magicians were again summoned and asked to perform the same miraculous act, which they did. But the fact that the magicians could produce even more frogs could hardly have been of any comfort. What they needed was less frogs. When times became tough enough Pharaoh yielded to God verbally. However, we see that he later changed his mind when things got better (Exodus 8:8-10).

In Pharaoh's reactions we see the mistakes that individuals make today when things get difficult in their lives. In times of difficulty, they put God off. Pharaoh put off submitting to God until the last possible moment. "Tomorrow" will be soon enough. In times of crisis, we cry out to God. When we have exhausted every human possibility we turn to God in prayer (v. 28). In times of relief, we forget God. Pharaoh promised to let the children of Israel go, but when there was "relief," that is the frogs were gone, he changed his mind (Exodus 8:15).

Because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart the people had to endure yet another plague, commonly called *the plague of the gnats* (8:16-19). The exact identity of these insects is not known. We get the word gnat from the Greek version of the Old Testament. The Hebrew word here may indicate a form of sand fly or flea that dug beneath the skin and caused itching and pain. If you think of "chiggers," you might understand what they went through.

The importance of this third plague is that for the first time the magicians of Egypt were unable to produce these gnats, even though they tried. This was convincing enough to provoke a most remarkable confession, for the magicians say to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" (8:19).

The onset of the fourth plague, *The Plague of the Flies* (8:20-32), brought great swarms of flies and other insects over the land. In fact the Hebrew text merely says that it is "swarms" not bothering to specify what insects were involved. It is highly probable that all the insects of Egypt increased unnaturally and infested the streets, homes and even the court of the Pharaoh. This plague elicits a new response from Pharaoh he tries to bargain with God.

The Third Response: Bargaining with God.

Pharaoh offers four different bargains to God. The proposals of Pharaoh are the same that Satan offers the Christian today.

1. Serve God but stay in Egypt. (8:25)

The same temptation is offered today, "Be a Christian but also be in the world and of the world. Conform." Yet we must heed the New Testament warning in Romans 12:1-2.

2. Leave your options open. (8:28)

Leave your options open, yet live with your eyes on Egypt. Three more plagues are necessary to convince Pharaoh of this error (9:1-7, 8-12, 13-35). As a result almost all the livestock of the Egyptians are wiped out. Since wealth was measured largely in terms of cattle, this was an unparalleled economic disaster.

The sixth plague seems to have followed quickly upon the plague that affected the livestock, but this one was worse because it was directed against the bodies of men. The *Plague of the Boils* (9:8-12) seems to be some sort of open running sore. As the boils continued the powerlessness of the false gods of Egypt were brought into sharp contrast. But still Pharaoh refused to let the people go.

Now there is no pause in the terrible judgments that come. Next is *The Plague of the Storms* (9:13-35). This plague is the worst thunderstorm in Egypt's history (v. 18) and the destruction that occurs is the result of both hailstones and lightening (v. 24).

The Plague of the Locust (10:1-20), devours everything that had been left in the fields after the destruction of the hail. These locusts came in such great numbers that they fill the houses of both Pharaoh and his servants. The patience of the people seems to be at an end. They question the wisdom of the king's response to Moses and Aaron (v. 7). The Pharaoh was not willing to appear unmoved by the plight of the people, but in an attempt to maintain his pride, offers to Moses yet another compromise.

3. Don't force your beliefs.

Pharaoh offers to let the men go but not the women and children. "If you have to go then go but don't take your loved ones with you." The Devil is still trying to convince believer's, "Let your children make up their own minds when they are old enough. Don't try to teach your children about God. Don't try influence your child to attend church let your children be a part of the world so they can have all of its advantages."

When the plague struck Egypt, Pharaoh confessed his sins and asked Moses for forgiveness and asked that the plague be stopped (vv. 16-17). His confession is not real however and when the plague was removed Pharaoh returned to his old ways and would not let Israel go (v 20).

A new plague, *The Plague of darkness* (10:21-29), now fell over Egypt. The darkness was so intense that for three days the Egyptians could not arise from their beds. The darkness was so great that the Bible says that it could be felt (v. 21). Pharaoh's response to the plague was to offer another compromise to the children of Israel.

4. Don't commit everything.

Then Pharaoh agreed to let them go, but they were to leave their flocks and herds behind (10:24). He expected them to serve Yahweh God without sacrifice. It's okay to have your religion, just don't let it affect the way you live your life. When Pharaoh's offer was refused by Moses, he warned Moses to leave his presence and that if he should ever return it would mean his death (10:28).

The Fourth Response: Conviction without Commitment .

As a result of the *Plague of the Storms* (9:13), as we have already mentioned, Pharaoh saw the error of his ways and the consequences of his actions. Pharaoh was convicted (9:27-30), but he made no change. Being convicted of our sins is not the same as being saved from our sins. You can sit in a service with tears streaming down your face because of the deep conviction of your sins, but that does not save you. It takes more than conviction it take commitment. To be delivered from our sins we must commit ourselves to the Lord.

Because there was no true change in Pharaoh's heart we read in Exodus 9:35 that his heart was hard, and he would not let the children of Israel go as the LORD had spoken by Moses. Pharaoh was a thoroughly modern man in his responses to God. He was a man who reacted to each new circumstance in his life. His principles, if he had any, were: Sin when you can get away with it, Ignore God when it is convenient, and Repent when you have no choice.

Eventually Pharaoh lost. By then Egypt was in ruins. The kingdom of Egypt had been devastated by the death angel. Pharaoh lost his own son. What does it take before we will surrender to God? We must heed the New Testament warning from Hebrews 3:7-8.

Conclusion

In his book entitled *Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication*, Chuck Swindoll said these words, "You may be in the danger zoneYou have played fast and loose with your life, ignoring warning after warning. You have shoved aside essential truths for so long that your heart has become hardened. And the longer you harden it, the more difficult it will be to allow God's light to finally break through." It's time for us to move out of the danger zone.

Move Out of The Danger Zone!

How's Your Heart?

Woody Allen the comedian said: "It's hard to get your heart and your head to agree in life. In my case, they are not even friendly." What kind of heart do you have?

Take the hummingbird heart. They have race car hearts that eat oxygen at an eye-popping rate. Their hearts are built of thinner, leaner fibers than ours. Their arteries are stiffer and tighter. Their hearts are stripped to the skin for the war against gravity and inertia, the mad search for food, the insane idea of flight. They are tiny little birds and their hearts beat 10 times a second. So even if you put your huge ear to its chest, it would be hard to discern the heartbeat.

The price of their ambition is a life closer to death; they suffer more heart attacks and aneurysms and ruptures than any other living creature. It's expensive to fly. You burn out. You fry the machine. You melt the engine.

The biggest heart in the world is inside the blue whale. Weighing more than seven tons, its four chambers are big enough that a child could walk around it, head high, bending only to step through the valves. The valves are as big as the swinging doors in a saloon. This house of a heart drives a creature a hundred feet long.

Every creature on earth has approximately two billion heartbeats to spend in a lifetime. You can spend them slowly, like a tortoise and live to be two hundred years old, or you can spend them fast, like a hummingbird, and live to be two years old.

What kind of heart do you have? Is it beating to the rhythm of songs of praise to God? It's never too late to give your heart to Jesus. That is, until it's too late. If you die without putting your faith in Jesus, then it's too late.

Jeff Stratton, a pastor in Evansville, Indiana, tells about visiting a 93 year-old man who had terminal cancer. His name, Adolph Allen, had been a hard-living, hard-drinking, union

ironworker for most of his life. Two minutes into their first conversation, Adolph looked at Jeff and asked, "Is it fair for someone to live their whole life one way and then at the end of their life to ask God to take them to heaven?"

After thinking for a minute, Jeff said, "No, Adolph it's not fair. But luckily for you and me, God is not fair. God is just." Jeff shared the plan of salvation with him and this 93-year-old man bowed his head and asked Jesus to come into his heart.

Four weeks later Jeff preached Adolph's funeral. He talked about how some football games come down to a final play. The team that's behind might have been outplayed the whole game, but on this last play the quarterback fades back and heaves a Hail-Mary pass into the end zone as time expires. The ball might be batted around but if an offensive receiver catches it, the game is over, and they win. Jeff said, "That's what happened with Adolph. The devil was in the lead for most of his life, but the final score was Jesus 1 and the devil 0!"

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Insanity of God Simulcast .. 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 16

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 17

Food Pantry Day

O Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

No Evening Worship.... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 23

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 24

W Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

November 13 — The Insanity of God Simulcast 6:00 pm

— Collect for Food Pantry

November 14-21 — Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

November 20 — Thanksgiving Dinner and Business Meeting at Noon

November 24 — Happy Thanksgiving! (Office will be closed Thurs. and Fri.)

December 4 — The Ascension Quartet, 10:30 am

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you here tonight at 6:30. Next week we will not meet due to the Business Meeting and Dinner.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We are looking at the season of Advent in preparing our hearts for the coming of Christmas with Max Lucado's *God Came Near— Insights on the season of Advent*. Hope to see you there!

The Insanity of God

-A simulcast-

Tonight

**6:00 pm, here at
Calvary Baptist Church
Come early!**

THANKSGIVING DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, November 20,

Immediately following the Morning Worship Service.

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week:

November 14-21

Due This Week

The Ascension Quartet

There is something special about Gospel music. It goes far beyond mere entertainment. In September while we were ministering at Diversicare we were blessed to hear *The Ascension Quartet*. They have been taking the message of Jesus Christ in song all over the mid west for over 40 years. Based in Strafford Missouri, the group travels thousands of miles each year bringing a message of love and joy through song. They have been invited to bless us here at Calvary Baptist Church December 4th during Morning Worship at 10:30 am. Invite a Friend!

Valley Community Center

Community Prayer Night
3rd Friday of every month

Community Worship Night
2nd Saturday of every month

For the Record

Attendance: November 6, 2016

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	9
Total.....	53
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	68
Children's Worship.....	17
Sunday Night	7
Wednesday Night	17

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,887.96

Offering Received by Mail:

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
13...Shirley Wilson

14...Ann Riddle
16...Nancy McCamy
22...Linda Dotson
23...Floetta Conard
27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn
November 3, 1995
Jack and Flo Conard
November 4, 1956
John and Dottie Wildberger
November 23, 1962
Jim and Brigida Winans
November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

George Ferbert and Family—strength
Nellie Reynolds—strength
Troy Griswold—cancer
David Beavers—recovery
Larry Danner—cancer treatment
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
Jim Winans—Laverna Village
Karissa and Matt Long
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
Richardson's sisters
Madeline Swink
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Sue Higgins Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
