

Morning Worship

August 5, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

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

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People Scripture Reading

Psalm 57 Don/People

Chorus *Be Exalted, O God*

Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn # 411 *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* Don/People

Hymn # 484 *Higher Ground* Don/People

Hymn # 208 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music

No Children's Worship (Summer Break)

Message *God's Personal Invitation* Allan Lane

Hymn # 315 *Room at the Cross* Don/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Chorus# 411 *Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus* Don/People

God's Personal Invitation

John 14:19-31

While we haven't emphasized it much yet in this series how God calls us to develop an intimate and growing love relationship with Him, that's really what He's always doing. How? It's all possible because of God's initiative.

We began a few weeks ago by looking at Exodus 3 where Moses encountered the burning bush. It was God Who took the initiative and called Moses out to return to Egypt to deliver His chosen people. God encountered Moses in such a way that He invited him to be a part of what God was doing in history. He invited Moses to enter into a personal relationship with Him – one that would require Moses to submit, surrender and obey.

God always takes the initiative. He took the initiative for you and me to be in an intimate and growing love relationship with Him by giving His Son for us at Calvary. Look at what the Scriptures teach us about this love relationship.

- Romans 5:8
- 1 John 4:19
- John 14:15
- 1 Peter 4:17
- Colossians 2:6

1. God Invites Us to Love Him.

We respond to this invitation when we accept the fact that God's love was demonstrated to us through the cross. The cross is a "once-for-all" statement of God's never-ending love for you and me.

By His love, God has provided us with the opportunity to know Him personally. We come to know Him personally through trusting His Son, Jesus as our Savior.

But having come to know Him personally, He invites us to know Him intimately. He invites us to know Him in intimate love relationship. God's desire is that our chief motivation in our daily walk with Him be a growing love for Him.

When it comes to your friendships in life, which do you consider a true friend? A person who associates with you only when they need to borrow something from you, or one who associates with you just because they like spending time with you?

When you go to God in prayer, is it always because you need something? Do you seek His face and His presence just because you love Him? This is God's desire for us in our relationship with Him.

He wants us to develop a true friendship with Him. He wants us to enjoy being in His presence. Note the promise that Jesus makes to those who are the friends of God in John 15:15.

2. God Invites Us to Join Him.

Jesus said that if we love Him we will keep His commandments. We will obey Him. This is what obedience is, joining God in what He is doing. This is how Jesus walked in obedience to the Father. Look at what He said in John 5:17, 19-20.

Note our Lord's Example:

- 1) The Father has been working right up until now.
- 2) Now God has Me working.
- 3) I do nothing on My own initiative.
- 4) I watch to see what the Father is doing.
- 5) I do what I see the Father is already doing.
- 6) You see, the Father loves me.
- 7) He shows Me everything that He, Himself, is doing.

The key word here is watch. Hebrew 12:1-2 reminds us to keep our eyes on Jesus, The Author and Finisher of our Faith.

Remember when you were a kid and you played "Follow the Leader?" You did whatever you saw your leader doing. Likewise, we need to seek to follow our leader. As we do, we will discover that the Christian life is designed to be lived as a great adventure with God. It's like it says in the song **THE GREAT ADVENTURE** by Geoff Moore and Steven Curtis Chapman.

3. God Invites Us to Know Him.

As we cooperate with God in the work He invites us to do we come to know Him more intimately. In fact, we need to let what we already know of God motivate us to trust Him and obey Him. As we obey, then we learn more of Him, which only results in us having more reason to obey Him further.

Consider how responding to God's invitation to cooperate with Him leads to more fully appreciate His attributes. And by the way, we learned this past Wednesday night that some of God's attributes are incommunicable and some are communicable.

God is...

- Sovereign - His way is guaranteed victory (Romans 8:31)
- Eternal - His way leads to life (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a)
- Omniscient - His way anticipates the unknown (Joshua 3:1-4)
- Omnipresent - His way manifests His presence (Joshua 1:9)
- Omnipotent - His way reveals His power (1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- True - His way leads us to experience truth (John 8:31-32)
- Unchanging - His way never changes (Hebrews 13:8)
- Holy - 1 Peter 1:16 - Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Righteous - His way leads to what is right (Psalm 23:3)

Just - His way is perfect (Romans 12:2)

Love - His way is always best (Jeremiah 29:11)

4. God Invites Us to Receive Him.

From 1955-1960 there was a series on TV called "The Millionaire." The theme of the show was that, each week, a generous multimillionaire would dispatch a messenger to give away a million dollars to some unsuspecting, yet needy person of his choosing. It was amazing how difficult it was for this messenger to give away a million dollars. The messenger was laughed at, lied to, treated rudely, and even had doors slammed in his face. To think that someone with whom you had no connection or affiliation would invite them to receive such a great gift was beyond the imagination of that day. After all, they did have to sign the receipt, they did have to respond, or they could not receive the money.

We can find many similarities between the story line of that TV show and of our Lord's offer to us. God dispatched His only Son, Jesus, to a people who had, by the choice of disobedience and sin, severed their ties. God sent Jesus to offer us something more valuable than silver, gold, or money; by and large, this people laughed at, ridiculed, and even killed Him.

But God was so determined to reach us that He used the death of His own Son as a springboard to offer us an invitation to be restored to Him, to know Him, and even to live with Him forever.

Conclusion

When we realize that God is pursuing us it leads to a crisis of belief. While we'll look at that more fully next week, it's possible that as we've talked about God pursuing us the Spirit of God has spoken to you today and you are already experiencing a crisis of belief. It's called conviction of sin.

Jesus expressed God's invitation to all in Matthew 11:28-30. It is important to note that the key to growing in your knowledge of God and your love relationship with God is your willingness to participate in the work that God invites you to join Him in. Jesus speaks of that here as His "yoke."

Using the imagery of oxen pulling a plow, Jesus would have us understand that if we are weary of carrying the burden of living a meaningless life, we need to be willing to put ourselves in a position to be used by Him. In other words, we need to be willing to obey.

Note that the oxen's yoke is not designed as an instrument of torture, but as an instrument of blessing, as it allows the ox to be comfortable, as it is used by its master in the work it was designed to do.

Likewise, those steps of obedience that God calls each of us, as His Children, to walk in are designed to bless us as we are used by its master in the work we were designed to do.

Perhaps the greatest blessing that we receive when we respond to God's invitation to love Him more and know Him better by joining Him in His work through obedience to His call is that we will be used of God to share with a lost and dying world that by the power of God, their lives can also be blessed.

There was a sign on the wall of a Baptist hospital that said: "Will your life be a mess or a message?"

What would you have your life be - a mess or a message? Some people's lives are a mess simply because they have not responded to God when He has been pursuing them. What your life will be is determined by how you daily respond to God's invitation

to love Him, join Him, and know Him. Even the smallest step of obedience is a giant step toward blessing. What step do you need to take today?

Will You Be A Mess Or A Message?

Don't Settle for Less!

This week I read the testimony of a pastor who was recalling how years ago when he was a young Christian he wanted to grow closer to God. But no matter how much he tried to think more about God, it seemed like he was always preoccupied with other things and continually forgot about God. He didn't know how to put the Lord first in his mind at all times. He shared his struggle with an older Christian. The more seasoned saint basically laughed it off and said that even he remembered feeling exactly the same way when he was a new Christian. But he didn't have any answer. It was as if he was saying to this younger believer that you'll outgrow it. You'll get used to living as a Christian without close, constant, communion with Christ.

You don't have to read very far to discover there have been Christians who have not settled but have chased God with a passion that led them into constant intimate fellowship with God. Perhaps you've read "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. Brother Lawrence testified that he was in constant communion with God for over 30 years. If you've read the whole book you can't help being struck by the way God affected every aspect of Brother Lawrence's life and the joy that filled even his smallest mundane tasks.

Frank Laubach was a missionary in the southern Philippines. He was famous for teaching literacy to thousands of people. He became known as "the apostle to the illiterates." Millions of people have learned to read through Laubach's programs. But in addition to his missionary work, Frank Laubach was also famous for his devotional books. He, like Brother Lawrence, focused on keeping God in his thoughts at all times. It is through these experiences of praying without ceasing that Laubach experienced the presence of God in powerful ways. Laubach wrote a short pamphlet describing how to live in the presence of God. It's called "The Game with Minutes." While I've not read it, it basically is the goal of bringing our thoughts back to God, whether through a prayer, a song of praise, Scripture verse, a picture of Jesus, at least one second for every minute of the day. That may sound hard, and at first it is, but Laubach gives some helpful suggestions. He says when you wake up you might put a picture of Christ on your bedside table beside your alarm clock so you think of Jesus when you wake up. He suggests at the dinner table have an empty seat and imagine that Jesus is sitting with you while you eat. When you see people on the street, on the subway or bus, pray for them. You might imagine Jesus walking up and down the aisle of the bus, placing His hands on each passenger and whispering in their ears, "I love you." When you are in conversation, keep whispering silently, "Lord, put Your thoughts in my mind. Tell me what to say." When reading a newspaper or magazine or book, read it to Jesus. Listen to His reaction to the story or article. When thinking about a problem or issue, carry on a conversation with God. Consult Him in everything and listen to His word on the issue. When we put our heads on our pillows to sleep, take one last look at the picture of Jesus and imagine Him placing His hands on us and blessing us with His benediction of peace as we close our eyes.

How different would our lives be if we intentionally lived as if we were in the presence of God? Don't settle for less.

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp
Alternate: ? ? ? ?
Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Monday, August 6

Food Kitchen

Wednesday, August 8

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 12, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, John Lewis
Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 15

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

August 6 — West Valley Food Kitchen

August 18 — Biblical Manhood Conference

August 26 — Diversicare

September 3 — Labor Day

September 14-15 NW Disaster Relief Training

September 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions

September 23 — SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

September 26 — See You At the Pole

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 night services tonight. Please join us as we will continue *A Case for Faith* with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Biblical Manhood Conference:

Our Higher Calling:

Biblical Manhood in the Home, Church, and World

August 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Frederick Boulevard Baptist

The cost is ordinarily \$20 per person (lunch included). However, we have 20 tickets. Sign up in the hallway to reserve your spot.

Key Speaker

John Akin

North American Mission Board

Worship lead by:

Connor Scholes

Noland Road Baptist Church

Diversicare Nursing Home

August 26, 2018

at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Disaster Relief Training

September 14-15, 2018

Green Valley Baptist Church

For the Record

Attendance: July 29, 2018

Sunday School.....30

Visitors..... 2

Total.....	32
Contacts Made.....	10
Morning Worship.....	41
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
 Offering Received ... \$ 1,103.41
 Long Family -July... \$ 110.00

Offering Received by Mail:

August Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

August Van Driver:

Mike Green
 Call 232-3747 before 8 am

August Member Birthdays:

09...Dottie Wildberger
 18...Don Beavers
 18...Tonia Meers
 22...Beverly Lewis

August Anniversaries

David and Annette Schottel
 August 5, 1989

Tim and Sharon Waters
 August 10, 1985

Prayer Requests ...

Family of Rev. A. B. Brown
 June Fritchle—recovery
 Sandy and Stanley Wilson
 Jim and Brigida Winans
 Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
 Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
 Mike Green—knee recovery
 Arlette Duty—strength
 Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
 Donna and Bill Dunn—health
 Jack and Flo Conard
 Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
 Gina Harr—strength

Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
