

Morning Worship

March 1, 2020

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

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		Romey Keith Davis
Hymn # 261	<i>Wonderful Words of Life</i>	Romey/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Missions Moment		
Hymn # 295	<i>Near to the Heart of God</i>	Romey/People
Hymn # 184	<i>Jesus is All the World to Me</i>	Romey/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Alva Lou Schottel
Chorus # 41	<i>Our God Reigns</i>	Romey/People
Special Music		Brother Al and Debbie
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 288	<i>Where He Leads Me</i>	Romey/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Closing Chorus # 42	<i>Awesome God</i>	Romey/People

Jeremiah: Object Lessons

Jeremiah 18:1-12

There were many object lessons throughout Jeremiah's ministry. Last Sunday we looked at the Sermon on the Temple, a sort of object lesson exposing the people's superficial trust in the temple rather than the God of the Temple. The symbolic acts prophets were asked to do were an intensified declaration of the divine word of God. It was both illustrative and effective. It not only pictured or prefigured that which was to take place, but also propelled it toward actualization. It was strongly reinforced by that which was said in connection with it. The symbolic act was charged with power.

Often the object lesson is described as a parable, or a pantomime. The common pattern is the instruction from God, the carrying out of the action, and then an explanation of the parable. Today we'll mention a few of these lessons and then examine a little closer the lesson from the Potter's House.

1. Linen Loincloth . (13:1-11)

Jeremiah was to purchase a new linen undergarment. It's been speculated that linen undergarments were only worn by the priests. A loincloth was something very near and dear to a man as it was his principle ornament. Jeremiah was told to wear it and not to wash it. Later on he was told to take it and bury it near the Euphrates. After a while, he was instructed to go and dig it up (two round trips adding up to 1400 miles). What does it mean? Jeremiah represents God. The loincloth symbolizes

Israel. Israel was God's treasured possession, His covenant people. Once there had been an intimate relationship between them but now they were corrupted by pagan influences, which separated them from God and His purpose for them. The relationship, after a season would be restored, but things would not be the same.

- 2. The Wine Jars. (13:12-14)**
- 3. The Sign of Celibacy . (16:1-9)**
- 4. The Broken Pots. (19:1-13)**
- 5. Two Fig Baskets. (24:1-10)**

Do you know that figs are grown on trees that can reach 33 feet tall? The fig tree offers multiple crops of figs every year. In fact, it is the oldest recorded tree to be farmed. The Mediterranean fig is pretty unique among fruit because it does not ripen after it leaves the tree. Once it is picked, the process stops. This means the fruit can't be picked early and then transported to market, ripening as it goes, the way say an orange or a tomato does. It must be picked or dropped from the height of its ripening process and used within three days for the best taste. After that, it's not going to taste as well.

When thinking of figs and the fig tree, it reminds us of Jesus in Mark 11:12. Jesus is walking back to Bethany after a long day of parades and riding donkeys. He comes across a fig tree and looks for a fruit to nourish him. He doesn't see any and curses the tree. The disciples looked on and were obviously a little confused. Why does he hate figs? Why would you curse a tree? Then the next day when the tree had withered and died, Peter excitedly decided to ask why Jesus did that. In the explanation, Jesus never really answers other than to highlight the power of God. Now, theologians since then have surmised that the tree represented Israel at that time, the community of faith who believed in our God. As such, Mark's account then becomes about their lack of ability to produce fruit even after the Messiah came. The Lord basically tells Jeremiah the same story 630 years before in that while the whole population of Judah may be fruit from the tree; they are not at all fruit He can use.

So why did God show Jeremiah the bad figs? God wants us to warn us of the reality that there were and are people who looked like figs but they fell too soon from the tree or they were too ripe and never decided to give of themselves freely. They held back. I think to some extent this is happening in the church today. For whatever reason, we have lost some of that wonderment of the transformation. Instead of being excited about seeing others grow, our ripening only happens when we come and study His word together and nourish each other's growth. If we are really going to grow to our full potential we must drop to the ground and be the seed for others.

- 6. The Cup of Yahweh's Wrath . (25:15-31)**
- 7. The Yoke of Bondage. (27:1-22)**
- 8. Purchase of a Field . (32:1-44)**

It was during a time of terrible fear and despair that Jeremiah listened to the voice of God and followed His instructions—even when those instructions would seem outlandish to any conventional human wisdom. Jeremiah purchased the land, he made the investment and then he sealed the deeds of purchase in a "clay jar" so that the documents would "last a long time."

"For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

No matter what might be happening in our lives right this moment, are we willing to believe—along with Jeremiah—this promise from God—and claim this promise for ourselves? Are we willing to invest in the future despite the absence of human hope?

Jeremiah was a person who trusted in God against all the odds. He refused to give in to despair. Instead, he trusted God's goodness, and he allowed God to be in control of his actions. He adopted a lifestyle of hope. Are we willing to trust God when He tells us the plans which He has for us in the future? "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."?

9. Reading of the Scroll . (36:9-32)

In the book of Jeremiah, we read an intriguing story of a Jewish King who didn't like something God had to say. The King's name was Jehoiakim and God had had Jeremiah write down a prophecy condemned the King and his kingdom because of the evil that King had allowed to take place. God sent a warning to Jehoiakim and the nation of Judah to repent or else.

But instead of repenting of his sin Jehoiakim decided to show his contempt for God's prophecy. He ordered a scribe to come into his chambers and read the prophecy in his presence. And after 3 or 4 columns of the scroll of the prophecy had been written on were read (roughly equivalent to 3 or 4 pages from a book) the King took a knife and cut off that section from the scroll, and he crumpled it up and threw it into a fire. And Jehoiakim did that with the entire scroll until the all of the prophecy had been completely destroyed.

Jehoiakim cut out the sections of the prophecy he didn't like... which was pretty much all of it. And over the centuries, people have – to one degree or another – done exactly the same thing to God's Word with their own knives.

For example, Thomas Jefferson created his own personalized Bible using a similar technique. Jefferson titled the finished product: "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth." And what he did was, he took several copies of the Bible and literally went through the Gospels, taking a penknife and cutting out the sections of Gospels that he liked. Then he'd paste those sections he liked into a journal – and that became his Bible.

The parts he left out he rejected because he felt those sections were "contrary to reason." You see Jefferson was offended by the idea that God would reach down into this world and "interfere" with the affairs of men. So anything that smacked of a being a miracle was 'contrary to reason.' He left out anything that spoke of God's miraculous power. Things like:

- the feeding of the 5000.
- the various healings Jesus did.
- and (of course) the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

10. The Potter's Wheel . (18:1-12)

a. God's Purpose .

The potter has a purpose in mind for his work (v. 3). Jeremiah watched the potter as he molded the clay into the object he wanted. God has a purpose for our lives. Humanity's highest wisdom is to seek and fit into that purpose.

b. Our Failure .

The potter's design can be spoiled (v. 4a). As Jeremiah watched, some imperfection in the clay caused it to be marred in the potter's hand. Through sin we distort God's purpose for our lives. Having distorted that purpose, there seems to be little hope for us.

c. God's Redesign .

Renewal is possible at the hand of the potter (vv. 4b-6). The potter did not discard the spoiled clay: he reworked it. God, the Potter, can take a ruined life and make it into something incredible. The only thing that stands in the way of God's renewing hand is a stubborn heart.

Conclusion: What kind of clay are you?

Would you be described as dry clay? Life's hard so you do not let anything of value penetrate your life. Dry clay cannot be molded. If it falls apart, it is like the lives of many who are falling apart because they are not letting God do something with their life and they are drying up.

Would you be described as pliable clay? Clay that isn't pliable may have enough moisture to exist, but not enough to be molded properly. This describes clay that is ungrateful to others and ungrateful to God. That would be clay marred and ruined and jumps off the potter's wheel every time God wants to do something with you. That would be like a person building a foundation - they are saved enough to make heaven, but not redeemed enough to surrender and let God do something in your life. They are not bad people- they love the Lord- they just live for themselves and refuse the potter.

Ephesians 2:1 reminds us "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

The message at the Potters House reminds us we are allowed to be a work in progress. God does not expect us to show up in some perfect final form. God is not waiting to smash us for our sins. He gives us make-overs or do-overs. God will shape us into people he wants us to be.

The message at the Potters House is to turn. The word turn is prominent. We must be willing to turn from our evil ways and reform our ways and our actions. The Language of turning is the language of molding and shaping.

What Stands in God's Way Today?

It's Lent Season

Although Easter is the most significant of the Christian holidays it does not enjoy the kind of enthusiastic fanfare afforded Christmas. Lent, as celebrated by many Christian denominations, is the forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday which was this past week (February 26th), and goes until Thursday, April 9th. Therefore, we have now entered the Lenten Season and have begun our spiritual "March toward Calvary." This season includes Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday Worship, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday.

Having seen people this week with ash crosses on their foreheads, perhaps you wonder where the term Ash Wednesday come from. In the days when fire was vital for cooking and heat, a major part of keeping house was keeping ashes under control. During times when serious problems occurred that housekeeping chore would often be left undone and so a person who was in mourning – suffering distress - would often have ashes on their face. Eventually putting on ashes became part of the mourning process. Ash Wednesday is about mourning for the sin which makes the sacrifice of Jesus necessary. During this 40-day period, Sundays do not count toward the forty days because Sunday is always about the Resurrection.

Lent is a season of soul-searching, a time for reflection and taking stock. In the earliest days of the Church Lent began as a time of preparation for Easter, and by observing lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus withdrawal into the wilderness. How can we use the 40 days of Lent to prepare our hearts for Christendom's most sacred Holy-Day? What could we do during the 40 days to shake ourselves from business as usual to a more spiritually attuned life? Most of us, truth be told, are out of tune spiritually.

Lent Season should help us be honest with God and become more connected to His Will for our life. The Christian faith is supposed to be about imitating Jesus who said some radical things about dying to self and living obedient to God. Instead, we tend to want to imitate Jesus in ways that appeal to us. We pick and choose the parts of His life we will emulate based on our own sense of what is really important.

While Southern Baptists have not traditionally observed the Lent Season, it appears to me it would be easy to make it a time of short-lived commitment. While spending a few weeks trying to appear as though they are doing things to deny themselves and draw closer to the Lord, what should matter is how they live after making those sacrificial commitments. I've heard of people making the same sacrifice each year for the last 30 years. After Easter, they go back to their old habits. When will they finally get free of their past bondages? How many times can you do the same things over and over again, making the same sacrifices during Lent each year and still not draw any closer to the Lord?

If the purpose of a Lenten discipline is to strip away those things which clutter one's life or impede one from being in relationship with God, and one is willing to lay it down and not pick it back up after Easter, then I'm all for it. But we shouldn't have to wait until the Easter Season to do it. Repentance for sin is in season every day. Jesus said to be His disciple we must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, not just when it's scheduled on the calendar. Will you be His disciple today?

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Larry McKahan, George Burgess, Ken Nice

Alternate: Don Sharp

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 4

Prayer and Bible Study... 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Fred Kerns, Dillon Burgess, Don Sharp, Gary Yarbrough

Alternate: Joe Coats

January Bible Study Noon

No Evening Worship ...6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 11

Prayer and Bible Study

Up-Coming Events

March 2 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

March 8 — Daylight Saving Time Begins

**(Please spring forward 1 hour the night of
March 8.)**

**— January Bible Study immediately after
morning worship service with lunch**

March 11 — Prayer Warriors

March 15 — Luncheon and Business Meeting

**March 29 — 30 year celebration and appreciation of
Allan and Ellen Lane at Calvary Baptist Church**

GROW Team

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

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Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. Next Sunday we will have another January Bible Study. Plan to stay after the morning worship service for lunch and Bible Study.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We are enjoying our study entitled “The New Testament You Never Knew.” It’s not too late to join. Won’t you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Food Kitchen

Monday, March 2, 5:30 pm

**Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, March 8**

Please remember to spring forward one hour the night of Saturday, March 7.

***January Bible Study March 8, 2020
Immediately after morning worship with Lasagna
lunch provided.***

Prayer Warriors

10:00 am
March 11, 2020

You are Cordially Invited...

"30 years of Faithful Service"

Please help us celebrate Brother Allan and
Ellen Lane's 30 years
of faithful service to
Calvary Baptist Church.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 2:00pm

There will be a cake and punch reception to follow.

We will begin the celebration with a memorable worship service at 10:30am
followed by a carry-in meal.

*We would ask that you please bring 1-3 family-sized side dishes to
compliment the provided meat and rolls as we will have
additional guests!

(Please no desserts as cake and punch will follow the afternoon service at
2:00pm.)

For the Record-

Attendance: February 23, 2020

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	29
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	52
Sunday Night	N/A
January Bible Study.....	14
Children's Worship	7
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 1,905.00
Long Family – February \$ 120.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Lillie Williams

March Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and Mike Green

March Van Driver:

Mike Green

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

March Member Birthdays:

01...Ken Nice
05...Sharon Yarbrough
13...Tim Ford
16...Don Sharp
16...Aleana Lane
27...Jim Winans

March Anniversaries

Fred and Linda Kerns
March 14, 1969

Prayer Requests ...

LoLeta Middleton
John Lewis—cancer treatment
Nancy Baker— Bro. Allan's sister
Linda Huff—Good Report!
Nellie Reynolds
Jack Conard, Jr.—stroke recovery
Jim and Brigida Winans—Jim is home
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Gary Hurst—cancer
Donnie Rima—Ellen's brother
Mike Green—strength and recovery
Jack and Flo Conard
Sharon Russell—George's sister
June Fritchle
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Bill Dunn Shirley Wilson
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means

Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett Sharri Duty
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
