

CBRB GOOD NEWS

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Issue #5

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Ask and You Shall Receive

By Evonne Sherer

A few months ago I began thinking that I didn't have a very good appreciation of all that Christ had done for me. I began to ask our Heavenly Father if he could help me to have an understanding of what Jesus went through for us by dying on the cross for our sins. Although I have known he did this since I was a child, it was only a fact to me, not a heartfelt reality. So as I prayed, I asked that I could feel in my heart what this sacrifice really was. Unless I could feel the emotion of it, I would continue to just have a simple knowledge that it occurred.

I believed if God honored this prayer, I was going to experience the pain and anguish of how he suffered. I had seen the Passion movie and I felt that perhaps he would help me to feel this even more than what was in the movie. I was okay with that since I felt there was no other way to really have an appreciation of his sacrifice unless I could know the depth of the hate, betrayal, and anger that was his to endure.

I began reading a book that I have read two times before called the "Life and Ministry of Jesus" by F. Henry Edwards. I really don't know why I decided to read it again since I rarely like reading a book even a second time. Each day I would read a chapter and it was like it was brand new to me. I felt as if my eyes were opened in a way to comprehend the amazing love Christ had for us. As I would finish each chapter, I felt as if I had been worshiping with the Holy Spirit, and it filled my soul. I began to see his short ministry on earth as a love gift to us, and his wonderful

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compassion to the people he healed and feed. But mostly how the thrust of what he did was training his disciples so they could go on to spread his gospel here on earth after he left.

One thing that I had not expected to find was how he was just like we are, although he was God's son, he didn't have an edge on handling difficulties any more than we might. He went away fasting and praying to find guidance as to how to teach and help these men become knowledgeable teachers of the gospel. A task that was much harder than I originally thought since they were so ingrained with the Jewish doctrine.

As I read the last chapter of the book, it was with sadness since I truly had felt that Holy Spirit each day. I always walked away feeling, "Wow! I didn't know that he did that, that was so kind, or that was so instrumental in what the disciples needed to grasp."

I share this with you because if you have a deep seated question of any kind, ask God to open your understanding of it. I prayed several times before all this occurred. But the thing I want to leave with you is that although I believed He would answer my prayer, he did it in such a loving way for me. Instead of giving the hate, betrayal, and anger directed towards His son, he gave me the knowledge of all the good that was done with his life. All the good that he did was hard work and took constantly being in touch with the Father for it to be accomplished. That is what he wanted me to focus on. What a great gift!

In the Word

By Bruce Chapin

While reading through the Holy Word, though subtle, His instructions heard.

Planted deep within my head, would be missed if not read.

His word instructs me to pray, to stop and listen to what he'll say.

He guides me through each step of life, showing how to handle strife.

To gain your needs and His power, to hold you up in each hour,

To find the answers true and sure, stop and read the Lord's scripture.



Baby Blessing – Caroline Belle Twombly

Born April 16, 2015

Proud Parents: Brian and Monica Twombly

Big Brother Samuel Twombly

Open Door Mission

Donation Items

July – Disposable Razors

August – Shaving Cream

September – Hand Sanitizer



Today Is the Day

*By Elder Brian Twombly
Psalm 95:7, 8*

Today is the day
To stand for our God
The straight and narrow way
Is the one we must trod.

Tumultuous Conditions
Are all around us.
Do not be afraid
Jesus said it would be thus.

Principality and power
Fight against the right;
They know this is the final hour,
So they strive with all their might.

Christians trust your God.
His way is good.
Study the Scriptures.
Pray so that all is understood.

You were placed on earth for this hour.
You have a work to do.
Zion's light is our standard;
His Spirit will enliven you.

And so, while it is called today,
Work with all your might.
Do not dismay
To be the people of the light.

Two are Better than One

by Molly Burk

My friend Shayla and I went on this hike and we were the youngest of all that 15. It was pretty hard but we kept going to encourage each other. If she got behind I would yell back at her or if I got behind she would yell back at me. We tried to walk a little faster so we could get in front and at some points we were in front and at some points we were in back, but we tried to stay together to help each other.

My mom asked me and Shayla if we had a testimony to tell for morning worship and this is my testimony. We were almost at the end and me and Shayla put our arms around each other and walked holding each other up because we were so tired. This reminded me of Ecclesiastes chapter 5 verses 9-10, “two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.” It would have been really hard to do alone without her just like we can’t get to heaven without Christ.



Upcoming Events

July

16th & 23rd – Zion’s League

5th – 9th Camp Emmanuel

25th – August 1st Followers of Christ Reunion

August

6th, 13th & 27th – Zion’s League

23rd – Restoration Study & Fellowship

September

10th & 24th – Zion’s League

27th – Restoration Study & Fellowship

Renewed Strength

By Alyssa Burk

Two years ago my dad, Brady Hamblen and I went on a 16-mile hike from the Cohrs Farm to the Followers of Christ Campgrounds. At the time I pretty much had no idea what I was getting into and had not prepared in any way. By the end I was so exhausted that I barely moved for the next few days and said I would never go again. However, this year when my dad decided we should do it again I was excited and glad to have more girls going. Throughout the weeks before the hike my mom, my sister, cousin and I walked about three miles together several times a week to prepare physically. I also prayed and fasted to prepare spiritually.

A few weeks before the hike we had learned a scripture memory verse, which I had also learned as a campfire song in Odessa. This scripture was Isaiah 40:31. It says “but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” After thinking about this I decided it would be my motto on the trip and whenever I felt tired I would say this to myself.

As the last few days before the hike dawned I started to feel nervous and thought back on how tired and worn out I had been the first year, but I kept repeating this verse from Isaiah. When we came to the Cohrs farm that Friday we set up camp, ate and had campfire. I went to bed that night with nervous feelings and wasn't comforted any as Molly, Breanna and I woke up to soaked sleeping bags and pillows! When we got up we were freezing, wet and not in the best mood. Grudgingly, we got dressed and began getting ready. Again I had to be reminded of this verse and what it meant. God is in charge, He controls the weather, so there was a reason He had sent the rain, whether it was meant for us or for someone else.



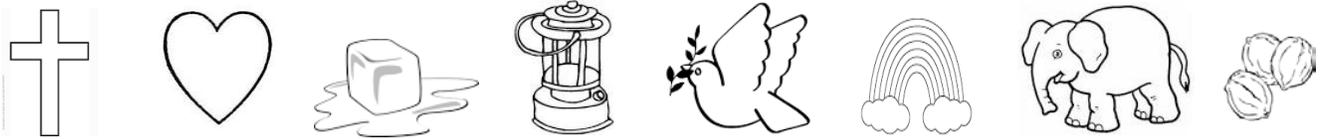
We left Saturday morning and started across a field (the cornstalks tripped me up too many times to count). We crossed fences, passed through woods, and walked across fields, pastures and roads. Because of the rain the roads were like muddy gravel and our feet became like weights. We stopped a lot. We stopped for breaks, for lunch, for people to catch up and more. Sometimes we would sit so long it would be hard to get back up and we didn't want to keep going. Throughout the hike I had thought of my memory verse on and off and when we got to the cross at the campgrounds, I quoted that verse to myself. I knew that had I not prepared physically and spiritually I would have been just as exhausted as the previous year, but because I took my preparation to the Lord, God renewed my strength just like Isaiah says.

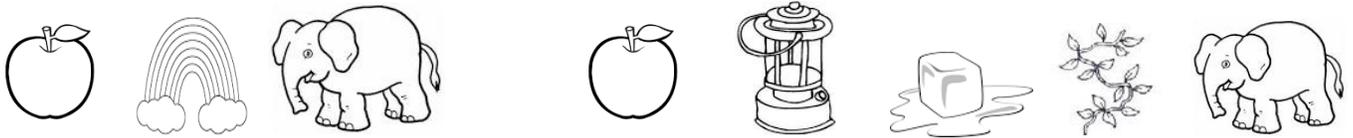
YOUTH SECTION

Moroni 8:13

Directions: Write the starting letter of each object on the line above it to read the scripture.









WHERE WILL YOU FIND GRACE?

Sermon By Bruce Sudduth

2 Samuel Chapter 9 “And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar. Then King David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! And David said unto him, Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am? Then the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house. Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat; but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. Then said Ziba unto the king, According to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Micha. And all that dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants unto Mephibosheth. So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem; for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.”

Mephibosheth would never forget that day. Word quickly spread through the countryside, “King Saul and Prince Jonathan are dead and David is now King.” At the house of Jonathan this not only brought grief but panic as well. In that day it was customary that if a King took the throne he'd often eliminate the family of the King before him. Sitting playing on the floor was little Mephibosheth oblivious to it all and soon his nurse burst into the room grabs him up and heads toward the door to run for safety, but in so doing she drops and then falls on him crushing his ankles crippling him for life. He believed that there would never be a day that would so impact his life and so affect his future like that day, which destined him for destitution, to live as a pauper instead of a prince. But Mephibosheth would discover

that soon would come a day that would make a far greater impact on his life and on his future. The day he found grace. Grace is God's favor that is unearned, undeserved and unrepayable. This concept is the key to the entirety of the New Testament. Too often we limit it to the work of Salvation in our lives, but Grace is power for our lives. 2 Timothy 2:1 ... be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Satan would have you leave the grace of God at the altar of salvation, but God's grace only starts there, enriching and enabling our lives. The devil will tell you that from that point on you must pull yourself up by your bootstraps and make it in your own strength. But Grace is God's undeserved favor on our lives. David had just subdued his greatest enemies. As he sat in his palace, looking back over his past and how he had come from a sheepfold to a throne room – no doubt he was taken by the wonder of God's grace on his life. I believe he began to look for a way that he could demonstrate the grace of God to someone that was just as unworthy as he was. Verse 3 stated “that I may show the kindness of God unto him?” Saul the previous king of Israel, and his son Jonathan, David's dear friend, have been killed in battle. At this time David takes over the kingdom. Saul was the people's choice as king, but David was God's choice. I would like to imagine as David sat around the tent one evening, fond memories of his dear friend Jonathan, come to mind. He remembers the covenant he made many years ago with Jonathan, and asks the question in verse 1 “is there anyone left from the house of Saul that I may show mercy to for Jonathan's sake?” David's love illustrates God's love to us. It was the voluntary impulse of a kind and merciful heart. So it is with God, He has taken the first step toward man's redemption. He so loved the world that He gave His Son. Mephibosheth was undeserving of this show of love. Ancient custom was for the new king to kill & destroy all the relatives of the previous kings. David offered his love to an enemy. The Bible teaches us that we are enemies of God. His love was self-sacrificing. David was willing to give what was his that he might show kindness to Jonathan's son. Jesus was willing to sacrifice His life, to die on Calvary, that our sins might be forgiven. What David gave was only temporary, what Jesus gives is eternal.

The Condition of Mephibosheth

I would like you to see – Mephibosheth's fearfulness. He was hiding from the King. He was unaware of the king's love that was to be extended toward him. Like Mephibosheth, so many of us are hiding from God.

Mephibosheth's destitution

He was in a city called LoDebar. This name means a “place of no pasture”. It was actually a barren wasteland. Outside of God's will, so many of us are living in a spiritual LoDebar, with no hope and no spiritual food. And we don't seek a place where we might get it.

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Mephiboseth's Helplessness

He was lame in both feet. 2 Samuel 4:4 tells us when he was 5 years old he was injured in a fall. His helpless condition is a picture of each of us without Christ. We are crippled by sin. Mephibosheth would become the recipient of David's act of grace, but there's a deeper story here – the story of God's grace toward us, it reveals where we can find grace.

GRACE WILL FIND YOU FIRST

David asked "Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? Grace begins in the throne room and finds us.

Like Mephibosheth, before we were ever aware of grace at all, it already began seeking us out. While we were yet in sin, he loved us and sought us out.

GOD'S GRACE REMEMBERS US

Forgotten by his nation, abandoned by his family –no reason to remember Mephibosheth. But out of God's grace, David remembered this crippled man. They were quick to remind David that Mephibosheth was crippled, as if that would turn David's heart. David didn't remember him because of what he could get out of him (he was no use to David),but motivated by pure grace. God's motivation to reach us is pure grace.

GOD'S GRACE PURSUES US

Lo-Debar is defined as "no pasture" or a hiding place, a barren, desolate, destitute place. Ask the prodigal son, it found him in a pigpen and brought him home. Ask Joseph, it found him in a pit dug for him by his brothers and it lifted him as high as second in command of Egypt. Ask the Samaritan woman, it found her at a well in the middle of the day. Like David, he sends out his messengers of grace. No matter where you may be today, grace can find you there and change your life.

GOD'S GRACE CARRIES US

Mephibosheth could not help himself, he couldn't reach David if he had to – so David sent men to carry him. God's grace is dependent upon His ability, not mine. When you can't walk any farther, let his grace carry you. When you can't believe any more, let his grace carry you. 2 Corinthians 12:9 ... "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness".

ABANDON YOUR CRIPPLED PAST

David had summoned Mephibosheth, but it was up to Mephibosheth to respond. Although grace is offered to us, it's up to us to embrace it, letting go of our crippled past.

ABANDON A CRIPPLED LIFE.

Not only had Mephibosheth's feet been crippled, but his life had been crippled as well. He could have let bitterness keep him in LoDebar, blaming David. He could have let fear keep him in LoDebar because David was a fierce warrior. God desires to trade your past for His presence. Let go of it and take hold of grace.

ABANDON A CRIPPLED MENTALITY.

His handicap and his past left him feeling worthless, useless, as he called himself, "a dead dog". How

transforming it must have been for him to realize that he had value in the eyes of the king. When you awaken to the reality that God finds you precious and valuable to him, it just drives out that crippled mentality.

DISCOVER WHO YOU WERE BORN TO BE

Maybe as a boy Mephibosheth pretended what it would have been like had he been the royalty he was born to be, but time had taken those dreams away. Now David looked down at him and restored his place in the palace. We too, were born to be royalty in the kingdom of God, but sin dethroned us.

AN INTIMATE POSITION

Not merely was Mephibosheth given a position of royalty, he was given a position of family. Verse 11 "as one of the king's sons". God's grace won't just make us his servants, but sons and daughters of God. This was a position of fellowship, personal communion. You too have place at his table, all you have to do is embrace his grace.

A PERPETUAL POSITION

David made it clear that this position wasn't a passing fancy it was meant to be, in Verse 7 "continually" is the word used. As long as David sat on the throne, Mephibosheth would never have to worry about anyone taking his royal seat away. We have his provision anytime we need it, day and night. We have his provision eternally.

EMBRACE GOD'S FAVOR AT HIS SON'S EXPENSE

Mephibosheth wasn't receiving grace on the basis of what he'd done, but on the basis of what Jonathan his father had done. Verse 7 "for Jonathan thy father's sake" Likewise, we are not receiving God's favor on the grounds of our own goodness or works, but on the basis of the work of Jesus Christ. Grace has been called "God's reward at Christ's expense".

Mephibosheth's blessing

He humbled himself before the king & said, "what is your servant, that you should look upon him as a dead dog". A dead dog was seen as contemptible and useless. But he found himself accepted, not on the basis of who he was but because of another.

I imagine when David looked at Mephibosheth, he saw a great resemblance of his dear friend Jonathan. He received a wonderful blessing:

He was adopted into the family... SO ARE WE

He received a new home.... SO CAN WE

He received his inheritance... SO CAN WE

He sat at the king's table... SO CAN WE.

When Mephibosheth sat at the table he looked just like everyone else. His lame feet were never mentioned and our sins will never be remembered, they will be forgiven through Jesus Christ.

Satan wants you to think that you won't make it outside of Lodebar. But come out, you can make it. God has something better for you. God has a way out for you. His grace is seeking you. This could be your day of grace. Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."