



LET'S VISIT

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MUSINGS ABOUT DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement is one of the most devastating enemies in existence. It is the enemy of every good individual and every worthwhile cause. Discouragement causes people to believe success is impossible. So, it brings about the failure of countless good projects.

When you think you cannot succeed, you stop trying. There is no greater blight than the expectation of failure. To be sure, some folks are more prone to be discouraged than others. Yet, all of us feel depressed from time to time.

In the scriptures we find a man paralyzed by discouragement. He was one of God's finest saints. He was one of God's greatest prophets. He was Elijah the Tishbite. He stood high among the most esteemed of the Hebrew race. He was chosen to be transfigured with Jesus along with Moses. That within itself shows an unsurpassed preeminence.

Elijah's life can be best described as one of continuing conflict. There was constant war with King Ahab and Jezebel. There were many skirmishes and many battles. The wicked Jezebel came from Tyre and was determined to replace the worship of God. She wanted the people to worship Baal. She was clever, ruthless and powerful.

At one point, Elijah becomes completely discouraged and flees to Beer-Sheba and to a cave on Mount Horeb, deep in the Sinai Desert. You can read the entire story in I Kings chapter 19.

Elijah is an example of deep discouragement. Not only that, he is an unexpected example. From our vantage point, he should have known that God was on his side and he would ultimately be victorious. Yet, this unusually good man fell prey to discouragement.

We are most likely to become discouraged when things go wrong. When everything all about us seems to be going wrong, it is easy to become discouraged. Sometimes this is true on a national level or even a world level.

Right now we are in such a time as this. So much of our world seems headed in the wrong direction. It is a time of sensualism, materialism and growing irreligion. Crime is multiplying, drugs are in wider use than ever before and there is a spirit of rebellion running rampant. Sometimes, it seems hopeless to stand against the negative, discouraging trends of our time.

Yet, sometimes the problems are more personal than national. In every individual's life there will be discouragement. There is the inevitable matter of ageing, illness and bereavement. There are unfilled ambitions and goals and often these are filed away as unattainable.

We often feel almost as David did when he was being pursued by Saul and said, "there is but a step between me and death". It is good in times of discouragement to remember Jesus' invitation where he invited those who were weary and burdened to come to Him and find rest. Or to recall the words of Paul in Romans 8:28, where he said, "*and we know that all things work together for good to them that*

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Thou Shalt Not Whine And Gripe

For The Pantry. . .

August 31 – Dried Beans

Offering – August 24, 2025 . . \$ 2,632.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Discouragement – continued from page 1

love God, to them that are called according to His purpose".

Discouragements sometimes come when there is a personal failure in our life. Perhaps we have lost a job or had to drop out of school. Maybe we had to give up some cherished goal or ambition. Failures of many kinds come at various points in our lives. With each failure comes the temptation to become discouraged and give up.

Often, we are discouraged when we face situations that are beyond our power to remedy. Sometimes these are in the affairs of our nation or our world. Sometimes they are closer home as when our children are grown. Rather than brood about what we might have done, or brood about what we wish we could do but cannot, there is a better way.

I am inadequate to live each day without divine help. I am also incapable of living without divine help. When I say living, I mean meeting the day to day problems that arise. The tensions of life can be overpowering for man's own unaided ability. It is easy to become depressed and discouraged. Discouragement is familiar to most of us and loneliness is not an uncommon experience.

The temptation to become discouraged also comes when we are alone. You can feel it in Paul's entrance into ancient Athens in Acts chapter 17. Silas and Timothy had stayed behind and Paul goes alone into this great pagan city. Even though he

preached on Mars Hill, there is no indication he was successful enough in his preaching to establish a church. He soon moved on to Corinth, sending word to Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

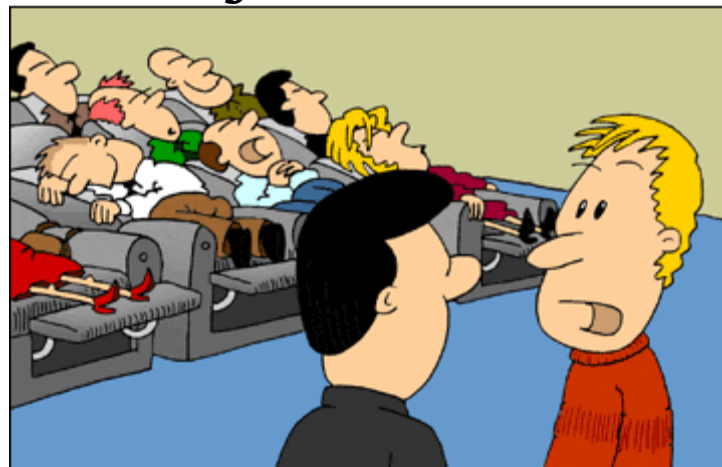
In a very real sense, we are never alone. Even when we are physically alone, God is always with us. Remember, Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, "*I am with you always*".

Discouragement is one of our most deadly temptations. It can erode away our desire to continue the battle. It can cause us to be paralyzed by fears of defeat. It can ruin our lives. We must lean heavily on the Lord and draw strength from him. We must learn to say over and over again Paul's words in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengteneth me.*" We must also learn the further sentence, "*And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:19)

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On The Lighter Side. . .



**IN THEIR DEFENSE, ATTENDANCE IS UP
SIXTY PERCENT**



September 7, 2025 THAT'S NEXT SUNDAY!

Invite ALL your family and friends to come and join us for worship and lunch!

Let's make this the greatest "Friends and Family Day" in the history of the Center Church of Christ!

Hospitality group 3 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of this group are: LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Liela Klein, Lieza Klein, Tiffanee Klein and Trish Lout.

Someone will be in the fellowship hall before and during Bible Class for you to drop off your food. However, the outside door will be locked at 10:40 so please bring your food prior to that time.

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Communion Preparation - September
Mike & Jana O'Brien



We had an enjoyable time of fellowship this past Wednesday with our meal and our time of singing. Make your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night Fellowship meal, September 24, 2025.



Gene Bradshaw is scheduled to have stents to correct a blockage.

Martha Bradshaw is scheduled for a stress test.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Richard Barbee (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) David Bissett (Mike O'Brien's brother in law- cancer) Dwayne Brister (Cissy Amos' cousin) Jane Adams Burkhalter (Diedra Hughes' cousin) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Leta Dozier (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) Ted Holt (former member of this congregation) Wynell Lawson (Diedra Hughes' aunt) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Norma Magby (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; J. C. Tate & Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's father and mother) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Jesus was a man of few words, that was His general character. He was not one of those who would tell you how to make a watch. Neither was He one who used flattery or exaggeration. When Jesus complimented someone, the things He said were very few.

When Jesus gave someone a compliment, it was not superficial. It had nothing to do with a person's clothing or style. It had to do with their heart and their character.

When Jesus was first introduced to Nathaniel, he said, "behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile" (John 1:47). When Jesus spoke of John the Baptist, he said that among those born of woman, there was none greater than John (Luke 7:28).

When Mary anointed Jesus with the costly ointment, Jesus said that wherever the gospel would be preached, that would be spoken of as a memorial to her.

Some day, when our forms have been bended low and we cross the great divide into eternity, I want to hear a compliment from the lips of Jesus. I want to hear Him say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". I want to live my life so that I will hear Him speak those words. If we are to hear those words, we must live His kind of life and live it His way.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**