

Let's Visit

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Overcoming The Obstacles

Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Yet, it often seems that something stands in our way. Somehow, we just can't seem to find the abundant life. We seek, we search, and it always seems to elude us. There always seems to be some obstacle in our way. When you get right down to it, there are a lot of folks in our world who are victims of the obstacle complex. They are convinced that certain difficulties stand in their way. They just know that circumstances have made life impossible. There is just no way they can reach their goals in life. The deck is just stacked against them. The children of Israel were like that.

The children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt, they were an enslaved people. Yet, God put in their mind the vision of a better life. He promised them a land. A land where they would have all that they wanted. They were living in extreme want. Their labor was hard. The hope of a better land sustained them.

Finally, the day came when their dreams began to come true. Well, they made a start. Under the leadership of Moses they moved out of Egypt. Along the way they saw many manifestations of God's power. He parted the waters of the Red Sea. He guided them through the wilderness. He provided food by day. Finally they reached the very border of their Promised Land. It was there that they stopped to ask questions. That was their first mistake. They wondered if they could possess the land.

Now, God had promised it to them over and over. He had proved his power countless times. They had seen His willingness to help them. But, now they hesitated. For nine generations they had been in bondage. They are standing almost literally at the border. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. But still they hesitated.

They appointed a committee of twelve to spy out the land. The committee reported that it was a good land. The land was flowing with milk and honey. Caleb said Let's go up and take the land at once. The majority said, "let's wait". They said, "we saw the giants in the land, we were like grasshoppers compared to them." It is a lot easier to surrender to giants than it is to fight them. So, they stopped. They became victims of the obstacle complex. They murdered their opportunity. They lost their chance. That old story is as new as the headlines on the television news today.

We dream of being something better. We believe God wants us to have the more abundant life. We have every assurance of His help. But we see obstacles in the way. We become shrinking cowards. We say, "I can't. It's impossible". So we hesitate and we lose out. Remember that old cliché, success comes in cans, failure in can'ts? What we need to do is get our hands on a can opener!

God has promised a land of abundant living for every one of us. There will be difficulties along the way. Yet, with our own ability and God's help, we can have it. In truth, all of us are standing right where Israel was. We are on the very border of our promised land. But so many people will never possess the land. They end up frustrated, defeated and miserable and the question is, why?

We are prone to concentrate on obstacles instead of strengths. Like Israel, every person has obstacles

(Continued On Page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – 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



Today's Sermon

"Quietly Quitting"

There has been a new phrase that has come into the workplace since COVID 19 known as "Quietly Quitting". Yet, over the years, how many people have "Quietly Quit" the church?

obstacles, they will grow into giants and we will sink into a grasshopper. If we concentrate on our powers, we will become the giant and our obstacles will become like grasshoppers.

We must use our faith. Does something seem to be blocking the pathway to our promised land? Perhaps it is lack of opportunity. it might be some personal weakness or opposition. We need to read again Jesus' words in Matthew 17:20. *"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."*

There is hardly anything smaller than a mustard seed. There is also hardly anything larger than a mountain. Through the use of those two illustrations, Jesus is saying a little faith can have large consequences. When we face obstacles in life, we must remember that Jesus said faith can move mountains.

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:31. **"If God be for us, who can be against us."** We need to say it so many times it begins to take possession of us. As we possess faith and as we become possessed by faith, we will at the same time begin to possess our promised land.

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On The Lighter Side. . .



"I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR SERMON ON TAPE, 'CAUSE MY DAD SLEPT THROUGH THIS ONE."

For The Pantry. . . Crackers

Overcoming The Obstacles - continued from page 1

to overcome. When we are tempted to be discouraged, we need to think of some of the great names in history and the "giants" they faced. Sir Walter Scott was a Scottish novelist and poet. He limped through life on club feet. Napoleon was an epileptic. John Milton, the writer of Paradise Lost, was blind. So was the great Greek Poet, Homer.

Louisa Mae Alcott was told by an editor she had no writing ability and was advised to stick with her sewing. Walt Disney was told by an editor he had no talent when he submitted his first drawings for publication. Thomas Edison's teachers said he was too stupid to learn. F. W. Woolworth at the age of 21 was not allowed to wait on customers in the store where he worked because his employers said he did not have enough sense to meet the public. Josiah Wedgwood was a lame, uneducated, neglected boy. Beethoven was deaf.

We want to say, "well, others could overcome their obstacles, but my situation is different, my obstacles are too great." Some people fight to overcome their obstacles while others sit back and let their obstacles overcome them. Some people live on top of the world while others live with the world on top of them. If we concentrate on our

Miscellaneous

December 4, 2022



**Make Your Plans To Be Here!
Bring Someone as your Guest.**

We will be having our covered dish luncheon following the morning worship and will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February.

BIBLE STUDY – It is still our desire to have as many “Bodies in Benches” as possible for our Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:45 and our mid-week Bible Study on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you can be here **PLEASE** make your plans to do so.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL – Our next Wednesday night meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to our evening services will be on November 30th. Please, make your plans to come and join us.

SUNNY GLEN TRUCK – The truck from Sunny Glen Children’s Home will be here this week. They have requested Pancake Mix, Cup Noodles, Crackers and Orange Juice. These will be our pantry items for the next several weeks and will be listed on the back of the calendar.



Those To Remember In Prayer

Betty Willis is recovering at home from a procedure she had on her eyes this past Friday.

Suzanne Ihlo (Martha Jean Golden’s sister) is in Cecil Bomar for re-hab as she recovers from a stroke.

Roy Garcia (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) is recovering from brain surgery to install a titanium plate in his head this past Friday.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick, **Gene Bradshaw**, **Martha Bradshaw**, **Martha Jean Golden**, **Geneva Graves**, **Alice Hall**, **Thelma Hinton**, **Louise Johnson**, **Tiffanee Klein**, **Debra Pate**, **Jerry Pate**, **Wayne Sims**, **Betty Willis**

“EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston’s brother), **Minion Bean**-(Mike O’Brien’s mother) recovering from a fall, **Ana Blair** (friend of Debra Pate) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher’s brother and sister-in-law) **Roy Garcia** (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) **Suzie Hogan** (Roxie Bostick’s sister) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins’ mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate’s uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Tina Vaughn** - cancer

“INTERNET FRIENDS”

(These are people who have become acquainted with the Center Church of Christ either through Facebook or our Website and have requested to be put on our prayer list)

Mason McConnell, **Frankie & Mandy McConnell**, **Wayne Minter**, **Courtney Workman**

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE
Leland Bradshaw, **Michele Bradshaw** **Jeremiah Soape**, **Rosie Tate** and **Lucas Tate**

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

Faith goes up the stairs that
love has built and looks out
the windows which hope has
opened.

CHARLES SPURGEON



Across The Preacher's Desk

Have you ever walked through a cemetery and taken the time to look, really look at the tombstones there? It is often quite interesting to walk among the old tombstones and see the epitaphs that have been written by men.

Often, in older cemeteries you will find some very ornate tombstones and monuments. Perhaps it has been erected in honor of a child taken far too soon from his or her parents. It might be a man or woman taken in the springtime of life. Then again, it might be an aged father or mother, respected and honored. You see a name and you find some verse of hope on that tombstone or monument.

Today, you usually find only the name and the dates. You see the year they were born and the year they died and there is a small dash in between. The dash is what we do between the time we are born and the time we die. That's what is most important. You see the dash is critical because it is your identity. It is who you are, husband, wife, mom, dad, teacher.

The dash is your influence, how you touch the lives of others. The dash is your legacy. It is what you leave behind to future generations. When your life is over, when the pale horse and his rider cross your threshold, when your love ones erect a monument to you in some cemetery, what will your dash represent?

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

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
52 in '22!
53 in '23!**