

# Let's Visit

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## The Valley of Weeping

As children of God, we know that God is good and that God loves us. Yet, why does eternal sunshine not light our pathway? Why is the sunny day followed by the dark and gloomy night? Why is our pathway not always covered with roses? Where do the cruel thorns that block our path come from?

If God loves us, why are we not always surrounded by prosperity? Why does our neighbor count his fertile land in hundreds of acres and at the same time we have but a few or none at all? If God loves us, why is it that when fortune seems at last to smile upon us, and we are borne aloft on a tide of prosperity, something must always happen to turn our prosperity into dust and leave us with disappointed hopes and broken dreams?

Why is it that when we have almost ascended the hill, something always seems to overtake us and send us hurtling to the bottom? Why, if God loves us, we ask is that light at the end of the tunnel always an oncoming train?

If God desires our well-being, why do pain and sickness assail us? Why can't we be hale and healthy, full of vim, vigor and vitality? Then, when God blesses our lives with the precious gift of love, why is it ever blotted out? The little child that sums up our life-dreams is suddenly snatched back again into the unseen.

If no name is so dear and unforgettable as "mother", why does the day come when we look on the silent form and call her name in vain? Why does the time come when a husband and wife who are inseparable in devotion experience the anguish of parting? Why does our own youth vanish so quickly and old age creep on us so stealthily, until finally that which was once so precious is now but dust and ashes?

Every generation sooner or later comes face to face with this problem. Every preacher is forced to wrestle with it through the long night. Yet, listen to the words of the Psalmist in Psalms 84:5-6, "*Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*" The valley of Baca is not a geographical location. Rather, it is the valley of weeping or lamentation. It is a picturesque expression for the experiences of those whose strength is in Jehovah and through his grace find their sorrows changed into blessings.

This text pictures for us the valley of weeping or lamentation. The imagery is that of a company of pilgrims on their way toward the holy city. In their path lies a desolate, sterile valley. In that dry and thirsty land many a traveler has fainted with thirst. Many a feeble or careless foot has slipped on those rugged rocks. Yet, no matter the trials, the pilgrims gird their loins. They pitch their tents and they dig deep. Their toil is rewarded with cool treasures of living water.

Our way to the better land lies through the valley of tears. Sometimes, either thoughtlessly or bitterly, this name is applied to human life as a whole. This is untrue and it is unreasonable. Granted, life does have its deserts and its dangers. Life has its weary

(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

### **“Encourage Yourself”**

Our text comes from **First Samuel 30:6. David has suffered a crushing defeat, and the scripture tells us “David encouraged himself in the Lord his God”.**

## FOR THE PANTRY....

### Brownie Mix

## The Valley Of Weeping – continued from page 1

Wastes, gloomy gorges and perilous passages. But, life also has its sunny uplands, smiling valleys and fields of happy fruitful labor. Life also has quiet resting places cheered by bright hope, warm affections and pleasant memories.

It is just as untrue that life is all sorrow as it is that it is all joy. At some point, the valley of weeping has to be crossed. There are some lives whose whole course is within its shadow. You see, even the happiest path runs so near its border that at any moment we may enter the valley of weeping. Perhaps soon to emerge and perhaps not to emerge until the pilgrimage is over.

However, God provides wellsprings for his children when they are passing through the valley of weeping. God provides comfort under trial. He provides blessing through trial and hope beyond trial.

We can meet trouble in one of two ways. In the way of the flesh or the way of the spirit. The flesh anticipates troubles with terror. It prepares for them with trembling hands. It prays in a panic and cringes before the trials. This was Jacob when he bowed himself to the ground seven times before he came near his brother in Genesis chapter 33.

The way of faith is far better. Faith clings to God and listens to God. Faith hears God say “I am with thee and will keep thee.” Faith believes that God will keep His word. Faith meets trouble not cringing and cowering but erect. Faith is certain that God has already been at work.

We must lift our eyes higher to the one from whom comes our strength. If our religious faith does not bring us greater strength in trials, then there is something seriously wrong with our faith. In order for the valley of weeping to become our well, we must have a full and complete trust in the providential care of God. This was the kind of faith that Job had. It was the confidence of Abraham and it was the faith of Paul. It must be our faith also.

*Tp*

## *On The Lighter Side.....*



07-05-201

**I DECIDED TO BE PREPARED EVER SINCE  
THAT ONE WENT ALMOST AN HOUR OVER**

***Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do  
today, for there may be a government  
regulation against it tomorrow.***

***Love never asks how much must I do  
Or how much must I give, but  
How much can I do and how much can I give.***

***Hardening of the heart ages people more  
Quickly than hardening of the arteries.***

# Miscellaneous

## Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you

## Twelve Rule To Promote Harmony In The Church

1. To remember that we are all subject to failings and infirmities of one kind or another.
2. To bear with, and not magnify, each other's infirmities.
3. To pray one for another in our social meetings, and particularly in private. (James 5:16)
4. To avoid going from house to house, for the purpose of bearing news and interfering with other people's business.
5. Always to turn a deaf ear to any slanderous report and to lay no charge against any person until well-founded.
6. If a member be in fault, tell him of it in private, before it is mentioned to others.
7. To watch against a shyness of each other and put the best construction on any action that has the appearance of opposition or resentment.
8. To observe the just rule of Solomon – that is, to love off contention before it is meddled with. (Proverbs 17:14)
9. If a member has offended to consider how Godlike it is to forgive, and unlike a Christian it is to revenge. (Ephesians 4:2)
10. Remember that is is always a giant artifice of the devil to promote distance and animosities among members of churches; and we should therefore watch against everything that furthers this end.
11. To consider how much more good we can do in the world at large, and in the church in particular, when we are all united in love, that we could do when acting alone, and indulging a contrary spirit.
12. Lastly, to consider the express injunction of the Scripture, and the beautiful example of Christ, as to these important things. (Ephesians 4:32; I Peter 2:21; John 13:5,15)

-Mardell Lynch  
Minister's Monthly

## Character

Character is the foundation stone upon which one must build to win respect. Just as no worthy building can be erected on a weak foundation, so no lasting reputation worthy of respect can be built on a weak character. Without character, all effort to attain dignity is superficial, and results are sure to be disappointing.

-selected



## Those To Remember In Prayer

### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

**Roxie Bostick** (back issues); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

**Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Talking-Listening

We asked the dear old lady  
With the brand-new hearing aid  
If her relative were happy  
With the purchase she made.  
"My dear, I haven't told them,"  
Was the answer, soft and shy;  
"But I've changed my will three times," said she,  
With a twinkle in her eye!

-borrowed



## Across The Preacher's Desk

Once upon a time, I thought I might like to take up the game of golf. I played a little for a few years, and then realized, golf was not my game. The men I played with (my grandfather and some of his friends) were guys that believed strongly in the Mulligan. Truth be told, none of them was ever going to join the PGA. Now, to those unacquainted with the finer technical points of the game of golf, let's define what a mulligan is: "You are allowed a second drive, or a do-over on your drive off the first tee if your first drive is not good enough or not to your liking or satisfaction" That means that "first shot" doesn't count. You get a "do-over".

Wouldn't it be great if we could take a mulligan in life? Wouldn't it be great if God gave us a do-over?

Well, when we get to Isaiah's prophecy, we find that our God is the "God of the Mulligan". The faith and hope of God's people were at a low point during this period. They needed constant assurance that things would turn around. Isaiah repeats these assurances over and over. When you turn to Isaiah 43:18, you find a beautiful statement. "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old" When we come to God with a penitent heart, when we obey God's will, when we begin to live God's kind of life, God gives us a do-over. A mulligan!

*it's something to think about. . . .thp*

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**