

# **SERIES:** the *Word* is with us.

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, December 9-10, 2023

**SERMON:** Making Hard Choices

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1:39-56 NIV

[1:39] At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,

[40] where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

[41] When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

[42] In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

[43] But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

[44] As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

[45] Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

[46] And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

[47] and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

[48] for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

[49] for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name.

[50] His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

[51] He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

[52] He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

[53] He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

[54] He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

[55] to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

[56] Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

# SERIES: the *Word* is with us.

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, December 9-10, 2023

SERMON: Making Hard Choices

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-56 NIV

*What do you do when your life gets turned upside down?*

## 1. Seek \_\_\_\_\_.

- Look to \_\_\_\_\_ and to those who \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- Don't seek advice from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked, or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers.*
- Don't make hard choices in your \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Seek \_\_\_\_\_.

- Stand in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Spend time in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most good decisions have a \_\_\_\_\_ component.

## 3. Look for \_\_\_\_\_.

- *Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
- *Philippians 1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

## 4. Magnify your \_\_\_\_\_.

## 5. Rest in \_\_\_\_\_.

# Lagniappe

Do you know one of the reasons we, as a church, are able to minister to so many in our congregation? It's because we have 30 Deacons who are true to their calling in the New Testament: *to be servants of the Church*.

These men provide counsel and support for the Pastors, assist in ministering to the membership, and work to promote unity of Spirit within the Church. They are called to visit those in the hospitals, make calls of encouragement, handle emergencies, and visit those in nursing homes or who are homebound.

*The criteria for FBCCov Deacons:* men who love the Lord, are faithful/consistent in attendance, support the church financially, and are involvement in activities/ministries of the church.

Below are the men who have agreed to serve in this capacity for a two-year term. The first column was affirmed last year with their two-year term running through 2024. The second column are the men whose two-year term starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through 2025.

## **TERM 2023-2024**

*Will Rotate off December 31, 2024*

1. Brian Baughman - *Deborah*
2. Tom Chambless - *Maureen*
3. Jason Coffey - *Staci*
4. Ed Covington - *Carol*
5. Syd Gibbs - *Stefanie*
6. Daniel Lombardo - *Jill*
7. **Larry McKinney** \*\* - *Jean*
8. Scot Martin - *Tammy*
9. Jim Moreau - *Julie*
10. Chuck Rich - *Ann*
11. Scott Ritter - *Meghan*
12. Daniel Roberts - *Kimberly*
13. Don Saucier - *Jimmie Rae*
14. Kevin Seal - *Dawn*
15. Robert Vinson - *Krista*

## **TERM 2024-2025**

*Will Rotate off December 31, 2025*

16. Jim Bishop - *MaryAnn*
17. Danny Brown - *Linda*
18. Joey Cochran - *Erin*
19. Carl Fredericks - *Maggie*
20. Mike Fairburn - *Kerri*
21. John Fricke - *Laurie*
22. **Doyle Holloway** - *Becky*
23. Rock Kendrick - *Susan*
24. Adam Martin - *Katie*
25. Mike Martin - *Kim*
26. **Wayne Peltier** - *CeCe*
27. Todd Snure - *Susan*
28. Steve Soileau - *Missy*
29. Barry Strickland - *Renee*
30. **Diamonte Venson** - *Stephanie*

Part of our worship services on January 13-14, 2024, will be a time to pray over all of our Deacons, with an emphasis on our newly ordained deacon, *Diamonte Venson*, and affirming the two newly serving FBCCov deacons, *Doyle Holloway & Wayne Peltier*. \*\**Larry McKinney* is serving the remaining term of Jim Cook

*When you see these men and their wives, please thank them for their service and commitment.*

# Waylon