

SERMON

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, July 13-14, 2019

GUEST SPEAKER: Don Pucik

SERMON TITLE: Orphans No More

SCRIPTURE: John 14:16-20 NKJV

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[16] And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

[17] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

[18] I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

[19] “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

[20] At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

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The relationship Jesus wants with you is...

1. Spiritual (*verses 16-17*)
2. Internal (*verse 17*)
3. Environmental (*verse 20*)
4. Personal (*verses 18-19*)

Lagniappe

Each Thursday I write the Lagniappe column for publication on the weekend. On this Thursday, it's almost impossible not to think about the approaching Tropical Storm Barry, maybe soon to be Hurricane Barry, with a land fall somewhere near us.

It's my prayer today that you are making adequate preparations by stocking up water and food and filling your automobile with fuel.

As I write this, I am reminded you have to make the preparations in advance. You can't make

preparations with high winds and driving rain. The effective preparations are made in advance, maybe with a checklist you have perfected during the years of major events and false alarms.

It's the same way in our relationship with God. The best preparations are those made as early in life as possible and based on a genuine and growing relationship with God.

Jesus spoke about preparation often. He gave us a parable about a wedding feast where some of the bridesmaids were prepared and some were not.

We know something about what makes us prepared for a storm. But what makes us prepared for the return of the Lord - and for the inevitable storms of life?

First, we should be watchful in prayer, meaning that we should not be naive about the world and about our enemy. Being watchful means that prayer should be a constant part of our lives.

Second, we should be growing in our study, memorization, and meditation on God's Word. God's Word will prepare us for the unknown and unforeseen.

Third, we should be seeking to be conformed to the image of Christ. God wants us to grow more and more in Christlikeness. Week by week gathering with the church will aid in this.

Finally, we should do everything possible to help our friends, family, and neighbors get prepared as well.

It's sad not to prepare for a physical storm; it is the tragedy of tragedies not to be prepared for eternity.