

SERMON

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, October 26-27, 2019

SERIES: *Faithful*

SERMON TITLE: Encouragement for the Discouraged

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah 20:7-13

[7] You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.

[8] Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long.

[9] But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

[10] I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

[11] But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.

[12] LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

[13] Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

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Title: Encouragement for the discouraged

How do we get from discouragement to encouragement?

1. **Acknowledge the obvious.**

- Life is hard; discouragement is easy
- God is not your problem.
- Quitting is out of the question.

2. **Change your mindset.**

- Think differently.
- Take the initiative.

3. **Center your life in God.**

- Put Him above all else.
- Seek Him in Scripture and prayer.
- Praise God and yield to Him.

Lagniappe

As you know, we are about to enter a very important and busy time of the year. Here are some things to think about and some things to know.

First, some things to think about:

Are you putting your time and effort on things that matter or things that will not matter? For example, "getting through the holidays" may be desirable but does that really make a positive impact on your life? Instead of "getting through," seek to see the real significance of Thanksgiving, Christmas, family time, sharing meals together, and gift giving. These are things that can build lifetime memories and joys that will be remembered for decades.

Are you "walking slowly through the crowds?" I use that phrase to remind our pastors that we are about people and their relationship with God. Everyone matters. Maybe we should "walk slowly through the holidays" so that we can enjoy the company of others.

Second, some things to know:

November 3 (Sunday) at 5:00 PM is our next Discovery Class. This is for new members and those interested in membership.

November 20 (Wednesday) at 6:45 PM is our next Congregational Meeting. We have several important items to propose, including new deacons and the 2020 budget.

December 1 (Sunday) - We will have a large Christmas Tree in our Plaza this year. We are planning a time of music and fellowship Sunday night, December 1, shortly after dark to light the tree and serve hot or cold chocolate - depending on the weather. We hope to make this a community event each year.

December 13 & 14 (Friday & Saturday). Our Christmas Choir and Orchestra Presentation will be at 7 PM on Friday, and 2 PM & 6 PM on Saturday.

December 24 Our Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

May God bless you at this wonderful time. May we do all possible to experience the joy and peace to be found in Christ.