

BRADY LANE LEDGER

E-Newsletter | A Word from Jeff Keller | A Devotion from Charles Stanley

Brady Lane Church

Believing–Living–Connecting

THE BIG TWO!

Upcoming Schedule

June 21 - Fathers Day

June 28 - Back to Church Sunday

Back to Church Policies

- Refrain from handshakes and hugs and try to social distance
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations around the church
- If you have to sneeze or cough do so into your elbow...please cover your mouth. If sick...stay home!
- We will utilize communion stations rather than pass trays and plates. Instructions will be given during service. There will be an offering box on the entrance table.
- If you plan to sing bring a mask
- Brady Lane Kids ministry is in the 11am service only.

Pause and Reflect

- What does it mean to seek after God?
- What does the person look like who seeks after God?
- How does a person seek after God?

In a Dry and Weary Land

For those of you who like to keep a nice green lawn, or you enjoy gardening or love planting flowers, have probably been worrying like me about the prolonged stretch of rain free days we have had. We might get a little rain this weekend which will be much welcomed for my August looking brown yard. There is no doubt that we are both literally and metaphorically experiencing a dry and trying time.

King David wrote about a time that he was struggling in the desert, on the run, and the only thing that got him through that time was his relationship with God.

Psalm 63

1 You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs
for you,
in a dry and weary land
where there is no
water.
2 I have seen you in the
sanctuary
and beheld your
power and your glory.
3 Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
4 I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
6 On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
7 Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
8 I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.
9 Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.
10 They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.



Overcoming Obstacles

By Charles Stanley

Read - Matthew 17:14-21

Nothing is impossible for the heavenly Father. No obstacle confuses God or poses any kind of challenge for Him. Though we know He is sovereign over every situation, we have trouble maintaining this perspective, just like the disciples in today's passage. Too often when difficulties arise, we ...

Experience a shift in focus. During trials, we tend to take our eyes off the Lord and instead see only our problems. The longer we look at our circumstance, the larger it seems. As we dwell on it in thought and conversation, our mindset can become very negative. Though God still has a direction for us to take, we are no longer concentrating on His purposes.

Develop an incorrect assessment of resources. In our troubles, we start taking inventory of our own strength and abilities. When they prove insufficient, we become discouraged. The truth is that we don't have what is needed for life's trials—Jesus Himself told us that. (See [John 15:5](#).) But God's capabilities are unlimited, His power is never-ending, and His wisdom is complete. We need to take stock of His resources, not our own.

View obstacles as barriers. For the obedient believer, impediments represent opportunities, not problems. The Lord can demonstrate His awesome power through our difficulties. (See [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#).)

At such times, we grow in our faith and learn more about our Father. If we view hardships simply as troubles, then we can miss demonstrations of God's love, power, and wisdom. Start each day committed to a Christ-centered focus, a dependence on His resources, and an "opportunity" mindset.



11 But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

Seeking after God means that you engage in a personal relationship with Him that you constantly want to be deeper. David got that...he knew that he needed God more than ever...and he earnestly sought a relationship with Him.

A person who is seeking after God has inner peace, inner joy, and has balance and perspective. When we are pursuing God - as David wrote - we get to hide in the "shadow of His wings". When we are close to God...in a dedicated intimate relationship we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit not only unites us with God but also brings us comfort and peace that we cannot find in our humanity. While we are created in God's image, in His wisdom God left us a little short on peace and joy and hope...because He wanted us to come to Him to get those things. In this dry and weary land that we are in today...we need more than ever to draw nearer to God.

So how do we seek after God? Well the first thing you have to do is put God at the center of your relationship with Him. I have known Christians that fill all their time with Bible studies, and service opportunities, and activities, but they never really know God.

To get to know God we have to spend quality alone time with Him one on one. Yesterday (Thursday June 18th) I had the opportunity to enjoy a minister's retreat at Hanging Rock Camp. I spent a portion of that day on a hike, alone, and I spent some time just talking with and listening to God. We need to unplug and unwind from the world and spend more time with the one who can help us overcome!

Finally we have to integrate Christ into all areas of our life...truly living a life of worship every day...where everything we do we do as though we are doing them for Jesus.

Amy recently did some photography work in the grassy lot behind our house. She captured some amazing images...of both the dry and weary land (above) - and of these beautiful thistles. Thistles like this can produce a beautiful bloom and have the



appearance of something pleasant. The world can be like that too. Beware Christian...let not your soul become so dry and weary that the only thing growing in you are deceiving weeds that are choking the joy and peace out of your life. Continue to seek to be closer to God...HE is our Water!